

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**1st AD troops reflect
in film on music's
impact in Iraq**

Page 21



**New enlisted club
opens for airmen
at Ramstein**

Page 8



**Thirst to reach
Victory Lane drying
up in NASCAR**

Racing Stripes, Page 29

Tony Stewart

Volume 63, No. 125 © EPSS 2004

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2004

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Aide says Shiite cleric told militia to hand over shrine

Fighting in Sadr City kills at least 10, injures 20 Page 3



Swimming golds

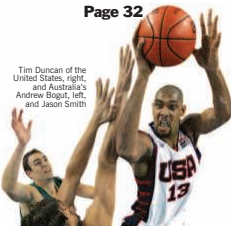
Phelps, Beard set Olympic records;
things turn out OK for Peirsol

Back page

Starting to click

U.S. men regain some confidence
in victory over Australia

Page 32



Tim Duncan of the United States, right, and Australia's Andrew Bogut, left, and Jason Smith

Makeover in metal

Page 4



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. Mark Greene, 21, of North Carolina and the 699th Maintenance Company, works on an armored door at the Camp Buehring Mad Max shop in Kuwait. Members of the 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team will be heading into Iraq with vehicles now getting a safety makeover, including being equipped with armor and blast-proof windows.

STARS & STRIPES

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Travel on Thursday

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American Roundup18-19
Classified25-27
Comics22-24
Crossword23
Faces 'n' Places21
Horoscope22
Letters18
Opinion15
Sports28-36
TV listings20
Weather17
Your Money16

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Liver donation: Todd Krampitz got his new liver through an appeal via billboard ads and Internet.

Now, the 32-year-old Houston man's family has posted a new billboard to send out a big "thank you" for the liver donation that saved his life.

Krampitz was discharged Monday from The Methodist Hospital after getting the transplant late last week.

An out-of-state donor family specified that the liver go to Krampitz, who was diagnosed with liver cancer in May.

The new liver bears Krampitz's picture and says, "Thank you! Give the gift of life. Become an organ donor."

Shoe bomber: Richard Reid, the British man convicted of trying to use a shoe bomb to explode a trans-Atlantic flight, is continuing to challenge his prison conditions.

Reid, a self-proclaimed member of the al-Qaida terrorist network, is serving a life sentence for the 2001 attempted bombing. The Justice Department has imposed restrictions on Reid and other terrorism-related prisoners considered a threat to national security.

In a handwritten lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Denver last week, Reid wrote he has been kept in isolation in a cell with a window that lets in what he believes is inadequate natural light, and that his mail is inspected by authorities.

N.J. governor: Following a conversation with Gov. James E. McGreevey, U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine backed off the notion of a bid to replace the embattled governor in a special election.

In his stunning announcement last week that he had engaged in an extramarital affair with another man, McGreevey said he would resign, but planned to serve through Nov. 15.

Corzine issued a statement Wednesday saying McGreevey assured him that he intended to stick to that plan. "I accept that decision as final," Corzine said.



McGreevey

Racist vandalism fraud: A Claremont McKenna (Calif.) College psychology professor was convicted Wednesday of falsely reporting her car was vandalized and spray-painted with racist and anti-Semitic slurs while she was speaking at a campus forum on racial tolerance.

Kerri Dunn, 39, of Redlands, was convicted of one misdemeanor count of filing a false police report and two felony counts of attempted insurance fraud. She faces up to 3½ years in prison when she is sentenced Sept. 17.

Staten Island ferry crash: A former Staten Island ferry captain who initially refused to speak with investigators about a disastrous ferry wreck will escape prosecution in exchange for his help in the case against another captain.

In an agreement made public Wednesday



Asian Bird flu: Chickens are displayed for sale at a wet market in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Thursday. Initial testing on a group of chickens with bird flu in northern Malaysia shows they are not infected with the same dangerous strain that has been blamed for the deaths of 27 people in Asia, but the country suspended all exports of poultry as a precaution.

at the arraignment of former Capt. Michael Gansas, the sole charge against him — lying to Coast Guard investigators — will be dropped if he helps in the prosecution of Patrick Ryan, the city director of ferry operations.

He'll also be able to regain his pilot's license in three years; his attorneys said he would consider it.

R.I. nightclub fire: The owners of a Rhode Island nightclub where a fire killed 100 people, including four employees, can be held personally liable for failing to carry workers' compensation insurance, a judge ruled Wednesday.

The decision comes after the state appealed an earlier ruling by a Department of Labor hearing officer that said the brothers couldn't be penalized personally.

Jeffrey and Michael Dederian's company, Derco LLC, has already been assessed a \$1.07 million fine for failing to insure their workers in case of injury or death. That fine has been stayed while it is on appeal in the state Supreme Court.

Teen murder suspects: Two teenage girls accused of killing one of the girls' grandparents were denied bond Thursday.

Prosecutors in Fayetteville, Ga., argued that Sandy Ketchum, 16, and 15-year-old Holly Harvey should stay in jail because they are a flight risk and because of the severity of the crime. Fayette County Superior Court Judge Paschal English did not explain why he denied the bond in his ruling.

Holly Harvey is accused of recruiting Ketchum, her lesbian lover, to help kill Carl and Sarah Collier in their home on Aug. 2, police said.

Police say the elderly couple, with whom Harvey lived, had ordered her to stop seeing the girl and to stop using drugs.

World

Indonesia elections: Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, trailing in polls ahead of next month's run-off election, announced a four-party coalition on Thursday to help draw much-needed votes.

"God willing, victory is in our hands," said Megawati, who will run against her former security minister, retired army general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, in the Sept. 20 presidential ballot.

At a rally drawing hundreds, her Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle said it was joining forces with Golkar, the country's largest party. The other coalition partners are the United Development Party and the Prosperous and Peace Party.

Bobby Fischer case: Bobby Fischer's lawyer accused U.S. Embassy officials Thursday of refusing to meet with the chess legend, who has been detained for more than a month and faces deportation, in a plot to undermine his effort to renounce his U.S. citizenship and marry his Japanese fiancée. Amnesty International, meanwhile, issued a statement supporting Fischer, saying Japan's handling of his case has been "sloppy and political" and calling on officials to treat him fairly.

Croatia torture case: Croatia's Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the retrial of eight former military officials exonerated by a lower court for the torture and slaying of ethnic Serbs in a wartime prison.

A five-member panel of judges presided by Zlati Lipnjak Bosanc upheld a prosecution appeal, ruling that the original trial was fraught with "serious flaws in criminal procedure as well as erroneous and incomplete facts." At least two inmates died of severe abuse and beatings, while scores of others were seriously injured at the jail in the coastal city of Split.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Aide: Al-Sadr told militants to hand over shrine

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEIDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — An aide to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said the militant leader instructed his followers late Thursday to hand control of a revered shrine to top religious authorities in Iraq.

A top al-Sadr aide, Aws al-Khafaji, told the pan-Arab Al-Jazeera television station that the cleric asked his militia to give control of the Imam Ali Shrine compound to officials from the office of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shiite Muslim cleric.

The government had called on al-Sadr's followers to disarm, evacuate the shrine and disband their militia or Iraqi forces would storm the holy site and wipe them out.

Al-Arabiya television showed a copy of a letter al-Sadr reportedly sent to his followers late Thursday. The handwritten letter had al-Sadr's office's seal, but not his signature, the station said.

"I call on the religious authority today to receive the shrine so that it won't be taken by the hands of the enemy and of treason. I have offered it to you before and you have refused before (the latest) incidents," the letter read.

However, al-Sadr refused to disband the militia, according to the letter, saying it belonged to Imam

Mahdi, the Shiite messiah.

Fighting between U.S. forces and Shiite insurgents in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City killed at least 10 people on Thursday, a spokesman for the militants said.

Sheikh Hassan al-Athari, who heads radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's office in the troubled Baghdad district, said five civilians and five militants were killed during "sporadic skirmishes" with U.S. troops.

He also said at least 20 people were injured in the skirmishes.

U.S. troops have been fighting with militants loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr for much of the past two weeks. In recent days, however, the U.S. offensive appeared to have intensified.

Earlier Thursday, Prime Minister Ayad Allawi issued a "final call" to Shiite insurgents to disarm and withdraw from a revered shrine after his government threatened a massive onslaught by Iraqi forces. As the peace deal for Najaf unraveled, militants bombarded a police station with mortar rounds, killing seven police and injuring 31 others.

Explosions and gunbattles persisted through the streets of the holy city of Najaf, wracked by violence since the Shiite militant uprising began two weeks ago. Witnesses said a U.S. warplane fired missiles at a hotel in a neighborhood where Mahdi Army mili-



AP photos

An unidentified U.S. Army sniper lays low in a fortified position during an attack by numerous insurgents in Najaf, Iraq, on Thursday.

tants were known to take up fighting positions.

The Arab League chief on Thursday called for an immediate end to military operations in Najaf and said Iraqi civilians must be spared. Secretary-General Amr Moussa received news of artillery "shelling and renewed clashes with great uneasiness," Arab League spokesman Hossam Zaki said in a statement.

An al-Sadr representative in Baghdad, Abdel-Hadi al-Darraj, warned that fighting in Najaf could "ignite a revolution all over Iraq."

Government accusations that the militants had mined the shrine compound and reports that women and children were among those inside could further complicate a raid.

U.S. troop action against the shrine also would increase outrage in the Shiite world, but Iraqi officials have said a crack squad of Iraqi troops would lead an assault on the poorly trained militants, and U.S. forces would not go inside the compound.

The crisis in Najaf poses the greatest challenge yet to the authority Allawi's fledgling government, which is seeking to gain

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, 946 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 705 died as a result of hostile action and 241 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths: Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when Pres-

ident Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 808 U.S. servicemen have died — 596 as a result of hostile action and 212 of nonhostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by military:

■ A U.S. soldier was shot and killed Wednesday while patrolling in eastern Baghdad.

The latest identification reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. David M. Heath, 30, LaForte, Ind., killed Monday during an attack while on patrol in Sadr City, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Fort Riley, Kan.

support from skeptical Iraqis and bring stability to the violence-plagued country.

Also on Thursday, a U.S. Embassy spokesman says one American was injured in mortar attack on building housing embassy offices in Baghdad.

A U.S. warplane fired missiles

in the volatile city of Fallujah early Friday, witnesses said. The target was not immediately clear.

Insurgents in the city responded by firing mortars toward a nearby U.S. base as calls of "God is Great" and Quranic verses, used to boost the morale of the fighters, blared from the loudspeakers of mosques.



Debris flies from a building explosion during a U.S. aerial assault on insurgent targets in Najaf.

Officials: Two dozen expected to be blamed for prisoner abuse

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Army investigation into the abuse of inmates at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison will blame at least two dozen people and conclude that while no senior commanders ordered the abusive acts, they should be faulted for inadequate supervision, two defense officials said Thursday.

The officials said the report is expected to be provided to Congress next week. They discussed the matter only on condition of anonymity because it is still under internal review.

In addition to the military intelligence

personnel who are a key focus of the investigation report, the Army found that military medical personnel became aware of abuse at Abu Ghraib while treating injured prisoners but failed to report it to their command superiors.

The treatment of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib grew into an international scandal after photographs surfaced last spring showing U.S. soldiers abusing and sexually humiliating prisoners.

An initial Army report, by Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba, said soldiers of the 372nd Military Police Company had committed "sadistic, blatant and wanton" criminal acts at the prison. Of the seven military police soldiers charged with the abuses, one

has pleaded guilty; lawyers for the other six have argued that they had followed orders from military intelligence officers.

The New York Times, which first reported the finding on the medical personnel, said in its Thursday editions that it obtained medical records showing that medicals had been in the area of the prison where the abuse occurred several times to treat suspicious wounds.

A separate report on the prison cases, launched by Maj. Gen. George R. Fay, examined the level of military intelligence, including the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade, the unit that was in control of interrogations at Abu Ghraib under the command of Col. Thomas M. Pappas. The Fay investi-

gation found no evidence to directly blame anyone above Pappas, defense officials said Thursday.

Although Fay concluded that no senior commanders ordered, encouraged or condoned the abusive acts, his report said they should be faulted for allowing conditions that led to the misdeeds.

The Fay report places direct blame on at least two dozen people, who are expected to face disciplinary action ranging from administrative punishment that could damage or end their military careers to criminal charges, the officials said. The New York Times reported that the two dozen include civilian contractors and CIA officers in addition to Army military intelligence soldiers.

U.S. vehicles receive Mad Max makeover

2nd ID vehicles are upgraded to survive rough traveling in Iraq

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Soft-shelled 2nd Infantry Division vehicles are getting a Middle East makeover that includes armor, blast-proof windows and air conditioners to enhance safety and comfort for soldiers.

The vehicles, from the Iraq-bound 2nd ID's, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, known as Strikeforce, arrived in Kuwait last week. They survived tough roads and muddy hills near the Korean Demilitarized Zone, but now must be refitted for jagged rocks and roadside bombs in Iraq.

At the Mad Max shop on Camp Buehring, soldiers work through the night to prepare 2nd ID Humvees, Light Medium Tactical Vehicles, M923 trucks, M915 trucks and Heavy Equipment Transport Systems.

The shop got its name from the post-apocalyptic Mel Gibson film trilogy that features its own version of up-armored vehicles doing battle in the Australian outback. The workshop looks similar to a modern version of the sort of blacksmith's yards that medieval knights probably went to to upgrade their armor before battle.

It is the brainchild of Chief Warrant Officer Randall Menough, 41, of Salem, Ohio, and Staff Sgt. Dennis Kenney, 36, from East Jordan, Mich., who have 40 years' combined experience working with metal.

The pair, from the 699th Maintenance Company out of Fort Irwin, Calif., were assigned to force protection at Camp Buehring in April. But when soldiers asked them to up-armor vehicles not assigned commercial armor, they saw a demand they could meet.

Enough is an allied trades technician able to oversee welding, machining, panel beating, canvas repair, woodwork, glasswork, vehicle recovery and crane operations, while Kenney is a senior welder and machinist.

The pair set up shop in a corner of the camp and quickly started. In three days, they up-armored an entire battalion's vehicles. Soon they had five soldiers from the 699th working for them and hundreds of sheets of Hardox 400, a type of armor with a high nickel and chromium content.

The Hardox costs \$1,200 a sheet, which for a while caused the Army to question the volume consumed at the shop, Kenney said.

"We were going through 80 sheets every four days and they [the Army] couldn't believe we were going through that much," he said. "They thought we were wasting metal, but then they came and saw our operations."

The Army changed its view and recently delivered 590 sheets of Hardox, he said.

"This month we have gone through 490 sheets," he said.

Soldiers cut the armor into the shapes of doors and gun mounts that Kenney has designed for the vehicles.

The shop runs from 12 to 15 hours each night because, by day, the metal plates get too hot to pick up. In a single night, the soldiers can up-armor as many as 140



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

A 2nd Infantry Division Humvee from South Korea has new armored doors and windows and an air conditioner unit installed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

doors on 70 LMTVs. Since April, the shop has up-armored more than 1,900 vehicles, Menough said.

Units receiving the armor have reported that it has saved seven lives when roadside bombs exploded, he said.

"They say our armor is preferred to the factory armor because we cover just the head shot so they have a lot more area to fire out of. It is a deterrent to the enemy. They pick the easy targets — the vehicle that is up there with no doors at all," Menough said.

On Wednesday night, the Mad Max shop was a hive of activity.

Blowtorches threw sparks into the dust and rows of armored doors were spread on the ground.

One of the soldiers doing the work, Pfc. Trinity Lueschow of the 2nd Forward Support Battalion, 20 from Gillette, Wyo., cut 34 doors in two days, he said.

"I enjoy cutting and welding. You need to be careful and watch your line. The difficult part is cutting a straight line," he said.

Several hours' drive away, at Arifjan, dozens of 2nd ID Humvees are being made ready with commercial up-armoring kits.

On Monday, Sgt. 1st Class Norris Evans, 39, of Haynesville, La., the maintenance control sergeant for Company B, 2nd Forward Support Battalion, supervised work on several Humvees assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment.

"We are preparing the vehicles for the guys putting the armor and air conditioners in them," he said.

The soldiers take off the old doors and the bolts where the armor is going to mount so that all the mechanics have to do is drill holes and put the armor on.

After the 2nd ID soldiers prepare the vehicles, civilian Department of Defense mechanics add the armor and air conditioners. Most are former servicemembers and many are Vietnam veterans.

The mechanics wear stars-and-stripes bandanas dipped in cool water to keep their heads cool while they work.

"The guys won't come here soft, and we make them hard, and they send them up north," said Merlin Jones from Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

A typical push sees the mechanics service 75 Humvees. Since March 2003, more than 8,000 armor kits, 2,000 air conditioners and 4,500 windshields have been

installed in Kuwait and Iraq, officials said.

Jones, a stocky veteran who served in Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division, said the vehicles are a lot tougher than the jeeps and Hueys he rode in Vietnam that had no armor.

"Compared to Vietnam, this is a whole different ball game," he said.

Nearby technicians installed Blue Force Trackers and movement tracking systems in the Humvees. Almost 3,000 Blue Force Trackers have been installed since the war started, officials said.

The tracking system allows soldiers to chat or e-mail other vehicles on the battlefield, all the while tracking each other and possible targets. A touch screen allows operators to zoom in on their area of operations using satellite images updated every few minutes.

"People can plot routes and enemy positions on maps and satellite images displayed on a monitor, then share them with everybody else in theater," said defense contractor Greg Garrett, who is helping install the systems.

After the 2nd ID Humvees finish their makeovers, they roll out of Arifjan sporting new yellow doors on their green frames.

"It kind of feels like a new vehicle with the armor on it, but we still have to keep the maintenance up. When you drive it, it feels heavier but it feels good," said Evans, who believes soldiers will be particularly impressed by the air conditioners.

"The guys won't be getting baked in the vehicles when they are driving in 120 degrees Fahrenheit weather," he said. "In summertime it would be nice [to have air-conditioned Humvees] in Korea."

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Merlin Jones from Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois is overseeing upgrades to 2nd Infantry Division Humvees in Kuwait.

U.N. still grappling with security a year after Baghdad blast

BY JONATHAN FOWLER
The Associated Press

GENEVA — In somber gatherings on three continents, United Nations employees remembered 22 slain colleagues Thursday, a year after a truck bomb shattered U.N. offices in Baghdad. It was an attack that "brought us face to face with danger in a new and more intimidating form," Secretary-General Kofi Annan said.

U.N. officials in New York and Amman, Jordan, watched a telecast of Annan's remarks at simultaneous observances recalling the bombing last Aug. 19 that many U.N. employees call "our Sept. 11" and that brought a fundamental shift in U.N. operations.

"We are no strangers to violence and intimidation," Annan said. "But the attack on the Canal Hotel was a unique blow for us as an organization."

The bombing, which killed the top U.N. envoy to Baghdad, Sergio Vieira de Mello, forced the world body to realize it is consid-

ered an enemy by some. The United Nations also has had to rethink its security procedures, although the U.N. Staff Union charges Annan hasn't done enough.

Annan said security is constantly on his mind after losing "22 wonderful, talented friends and colleagues whom I had sent to Iraq."

Annan, who met privately on Wednesday with families of the victims and U.N. workers who survived the blast, said the United Nations has to find a way to work in hot spots like Iraq and Afghanistan where terrorists are determined to block U.N. efforts.

The Staff Union contends U.N. workers are still being put in danger. Annan has said the United Nations remains "a high-value, high-impact target for attack in Iraq," but the body has re-established a formal presence in Iraq with the arrival last week of Annan's new envoy, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi.

A U.N.-appointed investigative panel headed by former Finnish



On Aug. 19, 2003, employees and security stand amid debris and fire at the United Nations headquarters shortly after a bomb exploded. U.N. employees on Thursday marked the anniversary of the attack.

President Martti Ahtisaari cited extensive security failures before the 2003 attack. It criticized the United Nations for shunning protection from U.S.-led coalition forces — then the only source of security in Iraq — and for ignoring "credible information on imminent bomb attacks in the area."

It accused the United Nations of violating its own security rules and called the security management system "dysfunctional."

In March, Annan fired one senior U.N. official, demoted another and charged two low-level officials in Baghdad with misconduct in connection with the security

mishaps. He also reprimanded the heads of all U.N. agencies for disobeying security warnings.

But he angered U.N. staff when he rejected the resignation of Deputy Secretary-General Louise Prechete, who headed the steering group that gave the OK for U.N. workers to return to Baghdad after the war that ousted Saddam Hussein.

The U.N. Staff Union expressed dismay that the United Nations "is sending staff into insecure environments without having made the prerequisite security arrangements necessary to ensure their security and safety prior to deployment."

Report faults general

WASHINGTON — A Defense Department investigation has determined that Lt. Gen. William Boykin, the Pentagon's senior military intelligence official, violated three internal regulations while delivering speeches that linked the war on terrorism to what he depicted as an enduring battle against Satan, according to a copy of the probe obtained Wednesday by The Washington Post.

Arab groups sharply criticized Boykin's remarks, accusing him of bigotry. Sen. Armed Services Committee chairman John Warner, R-Va., and the committee's senior Democrat, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., demanded an inquiry and called for Boykin to step down while it proceeded. But Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld kept him in his post.

The report found that Boykin improperly failed to obtain clearance for his remarks, improperly failed to clarify that his remarks were personal, and improperly failed to report reimbursement of travel costs from one of the sponsoring religious groups.

"We recommend that the Acting Secretary of the Army take appropriate corrective action with respect to LTG Boykin," the report said. But it added that the Army should take into consideration as a "mitigating factor" that Boykin said he repeatedly asked military lawyers about the propriety of making the speeches and he recalled no one advising him to obtain clearance for his remarks.

From The Washington Post

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REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

Jason Chudy and Seth Robson

Fighting the war, seeing the sights

BAGHDAD

Food probably won't be listing in its next tourist guidebook to the Middle East, but for military and civilian personnel visiting Baghdad's International Zone, one of the first things they usually do is a little sightseeing.

"We get between 20 and 50 soldiers a day," said Iraqi Facility Protective Service Officer Mueed Ahmed, who guards the large memorial of hands with crossed swords in the zone's western end.

"And different nationalities — multinational forces, British, U.S. forces and sometimes even civilians — drop in," Ahmed said through an interpreter.

Four sailors from the Camp Anaconda-based 508th USN Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants Support unit recently toured the crossed swords, a place where Saddam Hussein used to review his troops.

"It's our first time here," said Petty Officer 1st Class Art Castillo. "It's always exciting when it's your first time."

"We're just kind of wandering around," said Petty Officer 1st Class Mike Miller. "This is the only sightseeing we've done, unless it's mission-oriented."

Not ashamed of these purses

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — The 2nd Infantry Division soldiers at Camp Buehring have christened their newly issued CamelBaks "man-purses."

The CamelBaks are water bladders that soldiers wear on their backs to keep themselves hydrated in the hot desert conditions. However, they include a small purse-like zip-up pocket where soldiers can store various personal items — the man-purse.

So, what do soldiers keep in their man-purses?

Some use them to carry night-vision goggles, flashlights or scopes for their rifles.

However, one officer revealed that his man-purse contains the sort of things you might normally find in a metrosexual's bathroom — lip balm, inlaine cream and Oil of Olay.

The officer uses the inlaine cream, which features a label extolling its ability to cure "cracked nipples," on his fingers, ensuring that his hands remain soft despite the harsh environment. Oil of Olay is an excellent facial moisturizer and contains sunscreen, he said.

Unexpected sandblasting

Even the portable toilets at Camp Buehring do not provide sanctuary from the dust storms that have battered 2nd ID soldiers training there this week.

One soldier using a portable toilet early Tuesday morning reported being rudely interrupted by a blast of hot air from below.

The scorching wind was carrying thousands of small particles that sand-blasted the seated soldier, a fate that no warrior would wish to endure.

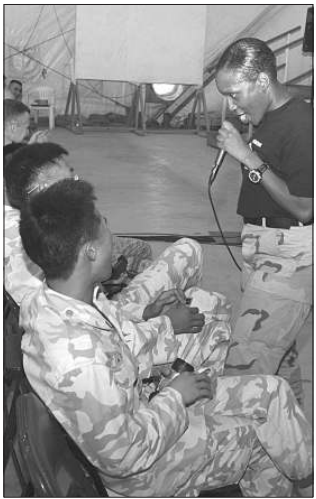


Jamming for troops in Bagram

Above: The Tropic Lightning Band entertains listeners with rock and pop music at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. The band, part of the 25th Infantry Division from Hawaii, was in Afghanistan to provide entertainment to coalition forces.

Right: Sgt. Tanzy Flakes, the lead female vocalist for the rock group Tropic Lightning, sings to a group of South Korean army soldiers during the band's performance at Bagram.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS STUMP
Courtesy of the U.S. Army



LSS: Lonely Single Soldier

Loneliness is eating away at some Iraq-bound 2nd ID soldiers before their year-long Iraq deployments have even begun.

One soldier, fresh from a year in South Korea, says he is so lonely he looks forward to receiving junk e-mail, spam and survey requests in his in-box.

If things get any worse, the soldier says, he might even reply to some of them in the hope of striking up relationships with the senders.

Jason Chudy can be reached at: chudy@mail.ustripes.osd.mil
Seth Robson can be reached at: robson@jstribes.osd.mil

Share your stories: Stars and Stripes is looking for offbeat stories, ideas and photos to run in its notebook section. To submit an idea or photograph, please e-mail it to news@mail.ustripes.osd.mil. Every submission must include the name of the person sending the e-mail and a phone number to verify the information. If including a photograph, please include the photographer's name, contact information, date the photo was taken and a short sentence describing what's in the photo.

Bottled water cleared for drinking in Afghanistan

Stars and Stripes

The 85,000 cases of Arwa brand bottled water in Afghanistan that were initially found to be contaminated were later cleared for drinking after additional testing found nothing wrong with the water.

In a release from the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Surgeon's Office, officials said that the water was retested and it was cleared for consumption.

The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine laboratory conducted the first test and placed the water on medical hold until the tests could be verified.

The water had registered positive for containing too many tritium molecules, Stars and Stripes reported in July. Tritium can increase the chances of cancer, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Web site.

After the initial tests, the U.S. military retested the water, which is prescribed in its operating procedures.

"Contaminants such as tritium were not detected in the water, neither in retests of the first samples tested nor in tests of additional samples for the lot," the military news release stated.

All of the water provided to troops in Afghanistan is monitored by the U.S. military and routinely evaluated, military officials said.

2 GIs killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Two Task Force Baghdad soldiers were killed Wednesday during separate attacks in the city, according to coalition news releases.

The names of the soldiers are being withheld pending next-of-kin notification.

The first soldier was killed around 3 p.m. when his patrol was attacked in eastern Baghdad. The soldier received a gunshot wound during the attack. He was evacuated to a military hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. The second soldier was killed by small-arms fire in Baghdad's Sadr City neighborhood about three hours after the first incident.

The coalition press releases did not specify the units to which the soldiers were attached.

Afghan cease-fire

KABUL, Afghanistan — Warring militias held to a cease-fire in western Afghanistan on Wednesday, allowing them to bring out dead and wounded soldiers after a five-day battle.

Soldiers from the new Afghan national army stood between the two warring forces, and the U.S. military was also poised to help tackle any renewed fighting.

From staff and wire reports

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Wald: Troop pullout in Germany to take years

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — It will be years before large numbers of U.S. troops begin pulling out of Germany, a top military official said Thursday.

The United States also will have troops stationed in Germany and throughout Europe for years to come to support the military needs of the North Atlantic



Wald

General says EUCOM committed to working with NATO, European militaries on providing security

tic Treaty Organization, or NATO.

Air Force Gen. Charles F. Wald, deputy commander of the U.S. European Command, or EUCOM, called the news conference to answer questions that were raised by President Bush's speech on Monday in Cincinnati.

In the speech, Bush affirmed his desire to make the military more mobile, which included withdrawing up to 70,000 troops from Europe and South Korea. The United States has more than 100,000 troops stationed in Eu-

rope, the vast majority being Army soldiers stationed in Germany.

"When all is said and done, we will still have a significant force here," Wald told the mostly German audience. "We're committed to NATO, and I think in the end game we're going to provide more security for the United States and NATO as a whole."

Wald said EUCOM wanted to work with European militaries to prevent Africa from becoming a safe haven and thoroughfare for terrorists.

"Africa has emerged as a significant issue to the United States and Europe for various reasons," Wald said, "from the standpoint of instability and unstable governments and the things that come with that."

"We're very interested in cooperating with European countries on involvement in Africa."

The transformation plan, which has been developing since Bush took office, calls for the establishment of forward operating sites and cooperative security locations — essentially way stations,

refueling sites and equipment depots — that are closer to potential U.S. enemies in Africa, the Middle East and southwestern Asia.

It also calls for withdrawing thousands of troops from Germany and moving them to the United States, as well as closing bases that are no longer considered militarily relevant.

There are dozens of U.S. bases in Germany. Wald declined to say which ones were going to be closed or when. He said the plan's cost has yet to be calculated but said that the relocation of troops and hardware could eventually be completely offset by the savings of housing troops, families and support personnel overseas.

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LISA HORN/Stars and Stripes

Martin's, a club with a piano bar atmosphere, is one of several attractions at the Ramstein Air Base Enlisted Club in Germany. The new, \$13.8 million facility opened Thursday.

Ramstein opens new, swanky hangout for enlisted personnel

BY LISA HORN

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Airmen at Ramstein Air Base have waited nearly 48 years for a new enlisted club. On Thursday, they got their wish. The \$13.8 million facility officially opened with a ribbon cutting by area officials, including Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, 435th Air Base Wing and Kaiserlautern military community commander; Lenny Bouchy, enlisted club manager; and Airman Raffine Johnson, 20, the youngest airman currently at Ramstein.

"When you see what [the enlisted] have, you will be green," Bailey said in her address to those who gathered for the ribbon cutting and a tour. "I know I am."

Plans to construct a new enlisted club go as far back as 15 years, said Cheryl Pierce, project manager. The facility includes a Chili's Restaurant, open to all ranks. It is expected to open in October.

"We basically just about doubled the size of the existing club," Pierce said. "This is not a traditional club as everyone is used to. ... It's an entertainment center."

The building is actually several clubs in one. Club E is a pulsating discotheque that New York City clubgoers would feel right at home in. A space tunnel leads guests inside the disco, where amoebalike designs float on the walls and TV screens are suspended above the lighted dance floor.

Next door, Martin's offers a mellow, piano bar atmosphere with soft lighting and music to set the mood.

J.R. Rockers Sports Cafe has been open since Monday and the sports-bar environment has already become a favorite with Master Sgt. Norma Click, assigned to Spangdahlem's 52nd Operations Support Squadron.

"Can we get one of these in Spangdahlem?" she asked. "This is really great. [The food] tastes just like in the States."

In between Martin's and the sports cafe, gamblers can strike it rich at the slot machines where Staff Sgt. John McCullough had won \$550 on Thursday afternoon. It is the only section of the club that permits smoking.

"It looks like a downtown place — not an Air Force club," McCullough said. "... Lots of light, bells and whistles."

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Navy recovery remains of aviators in Greenland

BY SONJA BARISIC

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — Cold, wind-burned and on the alert for polar bears, a Navy team recovered the last remains of aviators lost on a remote glacier in Greenland when their plane crashed more than 40 years ago.

The plane, equipped to track Soviet submarines, went down Jan. 12, 1962, during the Cold War, while on a routine reconnaissance flight. The remains of seven of the 12 crewmembers were recovered more than four years later.

The Navy team that returned home early Wednesday after an 11-day expedition to the site did everything possible to find the rest, said the team leader, Capt. Tom Sparks.

"I'm reporting out that we've been 100 percent successful in that mission," Sparks told reporters at Norfolk Naval Station.

"My hope is that our efforts and our mission success does bring some comfort and closure to the family and friends" of the crewmen, he added.

The team found human remains, personal effects and military artifacts. Sparks said he could not provide details. The identities of the crewmen first must be confirmed through DNA testing by military laboratories, a process expected to take at least four months.

In recent years, friends, relatives and fellow aviators pressed the government to bring back the last remains. The mission cost about \$250,000.

The wrecked aircraft, a P-2V Neptune aircraft out of the naval station in Keflavik, Iceland, went down during an 8½-hour flight, Sparks said.

The plane initially was thought to have gone down in the ocean, but in August 1966, British geologists found the wreckage while hiking on Greenland's remote Kronborg Glacier when some of the snow cover had melted.

By the time a Navy team reached the site in September, it was covered again in snow. The remains of seven crewmembers were recovered, returned to the United States and buried with full military honors. The Navy thought all known remains had been recovered, Sparks said.

But one of the British explorers returned to the area in the summer of 1995, during an unusual warm spell that exposed much of the glacier, and saw human remains when he flew over the crash site.

Sparks said the weather deterred the Navy from making another search attempt until this summer, when conditions were again unusually warm.

The team held a memorial service at the site on Aug. 12.



JEFFREY LEHRBERG, U.S. NAVY/AP

Recovery personnel examine the wreckage of a Navy P-2V Neptune aircraft on a glacier in Greenland Aug. 8. The plane crashed in 1962.

Fallen soldier remembered for optimism

Captain was fatally injured by rocket-propelled grenade in Iraq

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

Look at the photos on Capt. Andy Houghton's Web site and you see one thing the same in every one, whether he's with his family at West Point, in uniform, in Iraq, or even trussed up with duct tape. That mile-wide smile.

On Wednesday, Houghton's beaming portrait stood with his rifle, his boots, his helmet and his dog tags, lighting up the altar at the Ledward Barracks chapel in Schweinfurt, Germany. Dozens of friends gathered to mourn Houghton, 25, of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, nine days after his death from terrible injuries

suffered a month earlier in Iraq. "Andy was the happiest person I have ever known," said Master Sgt. Steve Ziebarth, a 1/4 Cavalry platoon sergeant in Iraq, whose comments were read at the service.

Houghton grew up in Texas, graduating from a Jesuit high school in Houston in 1997. He was on the football, track and debate teams. Outside of school, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout and volunteered with the Special Olympics program.

Houghton was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy and commissioned as an armor officer after graduating from West Point in 2001.

He joined the 1/4 Cavalry's Troop A as a platoon leader in



Capt. Andy Houghton



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Army

A soldier pays his respects to Capt. Andy Houghton on Tuesday at a memorial service in Schweinfurt, Germany. Houghton was injured in a July rocket attack in Iraq and died nearly a month later at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C.

January 2002, serving until his fatal injury. Friends said he won the loyalty of his troops with his good cheer and his willingness to lead from the front.

During a gunnery practice at the Grafenwöhr training area, Ziebarth recalled, the platoon tested Houghton's good humor by duct-taping his arms, legs and mouth, then snapping a picture. The photo shows Houghton's grin around the edges of the tape.

"From first light to lights out," Ziebarth said, "his face beamed from cheek to cheek with a wide smile that couldn't help but spread optimism and motivation."

During his months in Iraq, his platoon carried out 400 combat missions. Houghton personally led many of them, including the one near Samarra early on the morning of July 10 — his first day back after two weeks of leave in Texas. As he watched from the open commander's hatch of his Bradley fighting ve-

hicle, a rocket-propelled grenade exploded near his face.

At least three of Houghton's soldiers — Sgt. Charles Fray, Pfc. Adrian Stone and Pfc. Nicholas Blodgett (who was killed 11 days later in a separate attack) — rushed to his aid.

By the time he reached a field hospital, Houghton had lost two quarts of blood and had no pulse or blood pressure, according to the family's Web site, www.andy-houghton.org. But a nurse out of duty matched his blood type and gave him a direct transfusion, allowing him to transfer to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Houghton lay comatose for a month with his parents, George and Cindy, by his side. His brother, Matt, stayed with him, too, leaving to attend his graduation from Army Officer Candidate

School.

Houghton died Aug. 9, three days after a hemorrhage badly damaged his brain. That day, the Army promoted him to captain.

Houghton was buried Monday at West Point, and friends memorialized him Wednesday in Houston as well as in Schweinfurt. "When he received his wounds, he was among men who loved him, and he was doing what he wanted to be doing: leading soldiers," Ziebarth said.

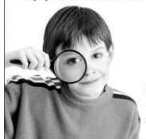
"From this point on, when I make the toast at Army gatherings 'to our fallen comrades,' there will be a young, blond-haired lieutenant, with circular wire-rimmed glasses and a smile as big as the day is long, starting back at me."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewer@mail.estrp.com

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A soldier stands guard in front of the memorial for Capt. Andy Houghton as many pay their respects Tuesday in Schweinfurt.

New AF environmental program will save time

Airmen gather information on best way to implement system to track hazardous material

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — With bigger issues on the radar screen — the war on terrorism, tougher fitness standards and longer deployments — an Air Force initiative on the environment hasn't generated too many blips.

But airmen at bases across the world are gathering information and planning how to implement their own versions of the Environmental Management System. The system, which will be used to thoroughly track hazardous materials that airmen use on the job, likely will have a small impact on most airmen.

"It's not really going to change what we do a lot," said Capt. Ed Eisenhauer, chief of environmental compliance for the 31st Fighter Wing at Aviano. "Our processes have been pretty well scrutinized."

"We're not doing anything ridiculously wasteful or anything to harm the environment."

That said, Eisenhauer — who

briefed others at Aviano on the initiative this week — says the system should save time, paperwork and money when it's implemented. It's supposed to be in place by the end of 2005.

The system should also help keep better track of the array of hazardous materials, from oil discarded during engine maintenance and cans of spray paint to expired bullets and computer printer cartridges.

All those materials are currently tracked in some way, Eisenhauer said, but the new system will realign the process and keep the information in a computer database.

The system — touted in a slide show as being more than just a computer program — will also include information such as an individual's history working with potentially hazardous materials.

Units on base are being asked to provide comprehensive lists of potentially hazardous materials they use.

"While we're doing that, we're also going to take a closer look at

how we do things, try to be even more environmentally friendly and possibly save a little money," Eisenhauer said.

For instance, a survey of one vehicle maintenance facility on base found that it is spending more than 5,000 euros a week for a service to pump out a tank full

of water and discarded oil. Getting equipment and a process in place to recycle that material could save thousands of euros, Eisenhauer said.

He said he doesn't think there is widespread waste of materials, such as spray paint. But the new system would allow each can to

be tracked from the time it's picked up, stored on the shelf and eventually disposed.

Instead of several organizations with varying types of forms tracking the lifespan of such materials, all the information will be stored in one place.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@starsandstripes.osd.mil



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Memorial for Gaeta-based sailor

GAETA, Italy — A memorial service was held Thursday for Petty Officer 3rd Class Kevin Arata, who died Monday while running on a beach before a Navy function.

Arata, 23, was from Morgan Hill, Calif. He was a master-at-arms with the Naval Support Activity Gaeta's security department.

The Navy says that preliminary indications are that the death was a result of natural causes.

Medical Detachment change of command

HEIDELBERG, Germany — Army Col. Michael Buley has taken command of the 100th Medical Detachment, Veterinary Service Headquarters.

Buley commanded the Southern Europe Veterinary Detachment — a subordinate unit — in Vicenza, Italy, before taking over from Col. Michael Cates earlier this week.

Cates has been nominated for promotion to brigadier general. His next assignment is chief of Army Veterinary Corps and commander of the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

The Heidelberg-based detachment is a part of the 30th Medical Brigade and is in charge of veterinary clinics at Army, Air Force and Navy facilities in Europe.

Rumsfeld: Working out missile defense

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Wednesday he is still working out the rules dictating when and under whose authority to fire a new system to protect the United States from missile attack, and awaiting a final assessment about the system's readiness to begin operations.

The remarks by Rumsfeld and other senior defense officials at a conference on missile defense indicated that the decision to put the novel and politically controversial system on alert was still weeks away.

The timing is being watched closely by proponents and critics of missile defense alike against the backdrop of the presidential campaign, in which the speed and cost of deployment have become issues. The first interceptor missile was loaded into a silo in Alaska last month, and five more are due for installation by mid-October.

President Bush declared last week that the system would become operational later this year, reaffirming a goal he set two years ago.

But the program has been plagued by a series of testing delays — most recently, this week's postponement of a critical flight test after the discovery of a faulty computer in the interceptor's booster.

Maj. Gen. John Holly, who is overseeing development, said here Wednesday that postponement of the test wouldn't necessarily delay start-up of the system.

From staff and wire reports

Civilian workers wary of new federal rules

DOD policy covers pay-for-performance, hiring and firing

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — In one office, an employee buried in work is still getting the job done.

Down the hall, a colleague who is practically growing cobwebs gets paid more money.

The top performer cannot be paid more, and the deadweight can't be fired. Even if he could, hiring a replacement would take six months or more because of red tape.

The Department of Defense has begun reworking the rules that govern how its 750,000 civilian employees are hired and fired, promoted, punished and paid.

A new way of doing things is scheduled to be in place by the end of 2008.

This week, two of the Army's top personnel officers presented a slide show and took questions from some of the workers in Stuttgart, Heidelberg and Kaiserslautern.

Stuttgart employees who attended the town hall meeting at Patch Theater were hopeful and skeptical.

"This was ... kind of a typical Army move," said Toni Fry-Walker, a logistician with the 6th Area Support Group.

"We're going to have a new system that we're going to implement, and they give you a date when you're going to start, but they haven't fleshed out the program yet. So it sort of leaves you hanging."

"The training ought to come a little more up front before we have to implement it."

The pay-for-performance proposal drew some doubts. While Fry-Walker and others said people should be paid what they're worth, they wondered how it would be decided.

A number of audience members said that too many bureaucrats played favorites. If a popular but ineffective employee is rated the same as an effective employee, does he, too, get pay-for-performance money?

"I'm neutral, optimistic but I'm also a realist," said James Greer, an assistant adjutant. "Because I know that the popularity idea is definitely real. So I'm kind of afraid of that."

Some were worried that underachievers might be unfairly targeted.

Mariah Armstead, an equal employment opportunity specialist, said someone who

is perceived as a deadweight might just be poorly trained or underused.

"Put them on some type of plan so they can come up to speed," Armstead said. "Don't get rid of the employee. We have good people. Train them."

The new system, called the National Security Personnel System, or NSPS, was enacted by Congress in November of 2003.

It's supposed to help make the Defense Department and Department of Homeland Security more responsive to the nation's security needs.

One of Wednesday's presenters, Regina Brown, the assistant secretary of the Army for man-

power and reserve affairs, said it took two years to hire enough civilian security workers for the Pentagon after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The lag was caused, Brown said, by inflexible hiring rules, which resulted in mili-

tary police and activated reservists having to pull security at the Pentagon instead of doing other jobs.

Forty-one unions that represent Army civilians are being consulted, said the other presenter, David Snyder, the Army's assistant director for civilian personnel policy.

"We're not bargaining," Snyder said. "We intend to get their input and opinions."

The first employers are scheduled to start using the new system by next July, and other groups by January 2006. Full implementation is planned by 2008.

Brown and Snyder did not say which groups of employees would be the first ones to try the new system.

They declined to take a reporter's questions after Wednesday's meeting in Stuttgart even though it ended 45 minutes earlier than scheduled.

Armstead, the EEO specialist, said she hoped the new system would not be implemented across the board until it was proven effective on a smaller scale.

"The decision they make and policies they are making are going to be affecting so many lives," she said.

"It should be a slow process and should be something that's thought out in every area."

More information on the new system can be found at: www.cpmc.osd.mil/nsps; www.cpl.army.mil
E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.estripes.osd.mil

"This was ... kind of a typical Army move. We're going to have a new system that we're going to implement, and they give you a date when you're going to start, but they haven't fleshed out the program yet. So it sort of leaves you hanging."

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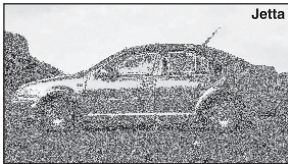
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IN THE STATES

Kerry fights attacks on his Vietnam record

Bush camp denies questioning service

BY RON FOURNIER
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Sen. John Kerry accused President Bush on Thursday of refusing on front groups to challenge his record of war in Vietnam, asserting, "He wants them to do his dirty work."

Fighting back, Kerry said if Bush wants to "have a debate about our service in Vietnam, here is my answer: 'Bring it on.'" Bush served stateside in the Texas Air National Guard during the war.

"Thirty years ago, official Navy records documented my service in Vietnam and awarded me the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts," Kerry said in remarks to a firefighters convention.

"Thirty years ago, this was the plain truth. It still is. And I still carry the shrapnel in my leg from a wound in Vietnam."

Kerry received five medals for his service in Vietnam a generation ago, but his record has come under campaign challenge in television commercials aired by "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth," funded by supporters of the president.

Bush and the White House have refused to withdraw the ads, despite calls to do so — from Sen. John McCain, a Republican who is a former Vietnam prisoner of war, as well as from Democrats.

Senior Democrats, including some inside the presidential campaign, have urged Kerry to respond forcefully to the criticism, fearing that if left unanswered, it could undermine his claim as a war-tested veteran ready to assume command in an era of terrorism.



Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., give a thumbs-up as he arrives Thursday at the International Association of Fire Fighters' 47th Biennial Convention in Boston. Kerry used the visit to address attacks on his Vietnam service.

In a rapid response to the Democrats' speech, Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt said the charge "levelled by Senator Kerry is absolutely and completely false."

"The Bush campaign has never and will never question John Kerry's service in Vietnam. The president has referred to John Kerry's service as noble service," the Bush spokesman said.

At the same time, neither the president nor any of his spokesmen has condemned the ad.

In addition to Kerry's speech before an audience of firefighters, his campaign released a new 30-second campaign commercial that features a former Green Beret say-

ing the then-young Navy lieutenant saved his life under fire.

Recalling when his boat came under attack more than 30 years ago, Jim Rassmann says, "It blew me off the boat. All those Viet Cong were shooting at me. I expected I'd be shot. When he pulled me out of the river, he risked his life to save mine."

Kerry's remarks came as The Washington Post reported that records concerning a Vietnam veteran who claims in the anti-Kerry ad that the Massachusetts senator lied about being under fire was under constant attack himself during the same skirmish.

The newly obtained records of Larry

Thurlow's medal citation show that he, like Kerry, won a Bronze Star in the engagement and that Thurlow's citation says he also was under attack, the Post reported.

Thurlow, also like Kerry, commanded a Navy swift boat during Vietnam. He swore in an affidavit last month that Kerry was "not under fire" when he rescued Rassmann from the Bay of Pigs River.

Thurlow's records, obtained by the Post under the Freedom of Information Act, include references to "enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire" directed at all five boats in the flotilla that day.

In his Bronze Star citation, Thurlow is praised for helping a damaged swift boat "despite enemy bullets flying about him."

Thurlow, a registered Republican, said he was angry with Kerry for anti-war activities after his return to the United States, especially his claim that U.S. troops committed war crimes with the knowledge of their officers up the chain of command.

In his speech, Kerry employed a war-time metaphor.

"More than 30 years ago, I learned an important lesson. When you're under attack, the best thing to do is to turn your boat into the attack. That's what I intend to do today."

Speaking of the organization airing the ads that challenge his war record, Kerry said, "Of course, this group isn't interested in the truth and they're not telling the truth... But here's what you really need to know about them. They're funded by hundreds of thousands of dollars from a Republican contributor out of Texas. They're a front for the Bush campaign."

"And the fact that the president won't denounce what they're up to tells you everything you need to know. He wants them to do his dirty work."

Kerry's comments drew boisterous cheers from members of the union that had endorsed him last year at a time his candidacy was struggling.

Gas facility explodes

MOSS BLUFF, Texas — Natural gas exploded at an underground storage facility before dawn Thursday, forcing dozens of people from their homes, authorities said.

No injuries were reported, but roads were closed and houses were ordered evacuated within a mile of the Duke Energy site, 40 miles northeast of Houston.

Crews decided to let the gas burn itself out, and two other storage chambers at the facility were not thought to be threatened, officials said. The cause of the explosion was not immediately known.

Beer gets best of bear

BAKER LAKE, Wash. — When state wildlife agents recently found a black bear passed out on the lawn of Baker Lake Resort, there were some clues scattered nearby — dozens of empty cans of beer.

The bear apparently got into campers' coolers and used his claws and teeth to puncture the cans.

Agents captured the bear for relocation using a large, humane trap, baited with the usual: doughnuts, honey and, in this case, two open cans of Rainier beer.

Google shares take off in first day of trading

BY MATTHEW FORDAHL
The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Shares of Google Inc. surged nearly 22 percent in their market debut Thursday, culminating a unique and bumpy initial stock offering for the 6-year-old dot-com dreamed up in a college dorm room.

The search engine's stock started at \$100.01 on the Nasdaq Stock Market, \$15.01 higher than its \$85 initial offering price. Within a few minutes of trading, Google

was at \$103.42, with 12.7 million shares having changed hands.

The IPO price, set late Wednesday through an underbook auction that alienated many on Wall Street, cleared the way for the stock to start trading under the symbol "GOOG." Founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page opened trading on the Nasdaq, and Google began trading at midday.

The surge may indicate that many institutional investors sat out the initial offering, said Barry Randall, portfolio manager for the

First American Technology Fund.

"There were a lot of institutional investors who were spooked by not only the initial auction scenario but also the missteps along the way," he said.

"I suspect many of them did regard it as a healthy business model, and now they have the ability to purchase the stock from the open market instead of the managers."

The \$85 initial share price was short of Google's original expectation of \$108 to \$135 a share. It also

came at the lowest end of Google's downward-revised range it issued Wednesday, when it also reduced the number of shares to be sold to 19.6 million from 25.7 million — a move expected to buoy prices.

The \$85 price values the world's most popular search engine at \$23.1 billion, more valuable than companies such as Amazon.com, with a market capitalization of \$16 billion, and Lucent Technologies, valued at \$13.5 billion, and nearly as much as General Motors' \$23.7 billion.

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Bernard.R.Callaway@snapon.com

GERMANY, AREA 2
Thomas Bittner
Account Representative
(01775) 5122759
Thomas.J.Bittner@snapon.com

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA
Rae Christopher
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IMPACT CARDS ACCEPTED

IN THE WORLD

Pakistan's new premier set to be put in place

BY MUNIR AHMAD
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Finance minister Shaukat Aziz was set to become Pakistan's prime minister next week, after he convincingly won the parliamentary seat he needed to take up the post, officials said Thursday.

Aziz, who narrowly escaped assassination when a suicide bomber attacked him on the campaign trail three weeks ago, won two by-elections by huge margins on Wednesday, amid opposition claims of vote rigging.

"I am grateful to those who voted for me, and I will do whatever is possible to improve economy and law and order situation in the country," he told reporters. Meanwhile, as Aziz claimed vic-

Hungary's prime minister resigns amid crisis

The Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy resigned Thursday after a key member of Hungary's governing coalition said it no longer believed he was the right person to run the country. Medgyessy's Socialist Party had accepted his decision, party officials said.

The Alliance of Free Democrats, a junior partner in a coalition with the governing Socialist Party, turned on Medgyessy after he dismissed Economics Minister Istvan Csilag on Wednesday.

Medgyessy's replacement was not immediately named, but Socialist Party President Laszlo Kovacs said the party had agreed on the new nominee.

Csilag was nominated by the Free Democrats, who hold four ministerial positions in the government and 20 seats in the 386-seat parliament. Despite its relatively small parliamentary representation, the party is an essential part of the coalition, which holds a thin 10-seat-majority over the center-right opposition.

Medgyessy's government has been in crisis for weeks amid disagreement over how to best govern Hungary as it adjusts to being a member of the European Union.

The new proposed prime minister was expected to be named at the end of next week.

He has helped marshal a recovery in Pakistan's economy since it faced international sanctions in 1998 for testing nuclear weapons. The government of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf nominated Aziz for prime minister after Zafarullah Khan Jamali stepped down in June.

Aziz needed to win a parliamentary seat before he could take the premiership, so two ruling party loyalists resigned from their seats to facilitate the by-elections and clear the way for his candidacy.

The caretaker prime minister, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, said Wednesday that the transfer of power to Aziz would be completed in a "couple of days."

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said Aziz's administration should be constituted between Aug. 22 and 25 — after a

More world stories on Page 25

vote in the National Assembly, or lower house of parliament, to elect Aziz as prime minister. That vote is seen as a formality.

In Wednesday's polling, Aziz secured 76,161 votes from Attock, a city about 50 miles west of the capital, Islamabad. His chief rival, Sikandar Hayat, polled 29,443 votes.

Aziz also won in Tharparkar, a town in southern Pakistan, netting 152,102 votes — more than 10 times what his closest rival received, according to Election Commission officials. The voter turnout was about 50 percent in both constituencies, an official at the commission said.

The official results were expected to be announced Friday.

Opposition groups have decried the process as an affront to democracy. Raza Rabbani, a senior opposition leader, also accused the government of rigging the by-elections but offered no evidence.

Candidates in Pakistan can contest more than one parliamentary seat. Aziz will take up only one of the seats he won.

The change in prime ministers was not expected to affect Pakistan's commitment to either the U.S.-led war on terror or ongoing peace talks with nuclear rival India — matters that are firmly in Musharraf's hands.

tory, Pakistan's human rights commission waived grave concern over the death in custody of

an Islamic cleric accused in the attempt on his life.

Aziz, a former Citibank execu-



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EU faults nations for not enacting environment laws

BY PAUL AMES
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union's head office Thursday accused national governments of letting their citizens down by failing to properly implement EU environment laws. It named France, Italy and Ireland as the worst offenders.

A report by the European Commission said there were "serious shortcomings" in the implementation of legislation dealing with clean air and water, waste disposal, nature protection and other environmental issues.

"This deprives citizens of the high level of environmental protection that they expect," the commission said in a statement.

Separately, the EU's environment agency issued a dire warning Wednesday that nations had to move faster to tackle global warming or risk deadly floods, heat waves and soaring temperatures that could melt three-quarters of the Alpine glaciers by 2050.

According to the report released Thursday, environmental cases represented a third of all legal complaints by the commission against national governments.

France topped the list of offenders, followed by Italy, Ireland,

Greece and Spain. Nordic nations Denmark, Sweden and Finland had the best records, followed by Portugal and Austria.

Under EU rules, the commission can take legal action at the EU's high court against governments that fail to implement European directives, which only become law after approval by EU national governments.

Although the European Court of Justice can levy hefty fines on governments, the complex legal process can take decades.

The ongoing legal battle between France and the EU's head office dates back to 1976, over Paris' nonimplementation of rules to protect water supplies from dumped pesticides, heavy metals and other pollutants.

In its statement, the commission said it preferred working directly with national capitals to help and persuade them to apply the rules.

The 10 nations that joined the EU on May 1 were not included in the report, which dealt with data up to the end of last year.

The commission told older members it was imperative to improve their record to set an example to the newcomers, which are mostly from Eastern Europe and are struggling to bring their environmental standards up to EU levels.

OPINION

Policy-makers should look beyond Arafat

Dallas Morning News

Yasser Arafat turned 75 earlier this month, but there were no celebrations at his besieged West Bank compound. There is nothing to celebrate. The Palestinian Authority is in tatters, chaos reigns, the authority is collapsing under corruption and rising conflict among armed factions portends a future civil war. Chairman Arafat has reached the end of the road.

That doesn't mean he will go soon. Arab leaders tend to be carried out of office on stretchers or in coffins, and Arafat is a ruthless survivor. Still, the worsening crisis in Palestinian society means that there can be no meaningful progress toward peace and stability with Arafat in power.

A recent independent Palestinian poll found that overwhelming numbers of Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank believe the authority is corrupt and must be reformed, but only 40 percent believe it actually is reforming. And no wonder: Separate 2003 investigations by the International

Monetary Fund and the Palestinian Authority's own finance minister found that Arafat has socked away between \$800 million and \$1 billion intended for his own desperate, impoverished people.

United Nations and European Union officials are fed up with Arafat, as are more and more Arab leaders. Because Arafat has run his government like a thugocracy, he has cultivated neither any successors nor the civil institutions from which they would emerge peacefully. When the Israelis finally leave Gaza, there will be a risk of a violent power struggle between Islamists and Arafat loyalists.

A Palestinian civil war serves nobody. Outsiders have limited means to affect events within Palestinian society, but Ramallah-based pollster and journalist Khalil Shikhi makes a good case that elections before the Gaza pull-out could provide a legitimate and relatively stable Palestinian government as a bulwark against anarchy and lay the groundwork for resuming the peace process with Israel.

President Bush and Sen. John



Kerry should be talking about this. Arafat's reign is all over but the shouting, and the current turn

mull among the Palestinians offers an opportunity — if American leaders and others are wise

enough to grasp it.

Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services

Pulling U.S. troops out of Europe, Asia a mistake

The Washington Post

"It's important we send the right signals when we speak here in America," President Bush said Monday during a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Cincinnati. He was admonishing his Democratic opponent, Sen. John Kerry, for saying that he would seek to reduce troop levels in Iraq within six months of taking office. "I think that sends the wrong signal," Bush said. That's a reasonable caveat, in our view, though it blurs Kerry's proper caveat that his standards would be "the stability of Iraq, the ability to have the elections, and the training and transformation of the Iraqi security force itself."

What is strange, though, is that Bush delivered his warning and then, in the same speech, chose to advertise a new global troop deployment plan as a way to "bring home about 60,000 to 70,000 uniformed personnel."

Once again, Bush seeks to convince Americans that they can fight a global war on terrorism without the sacrifices that war normally entails.

Already he has refused to shoulder fiscal responsibility for the military decisions he has made, sentencing the nation to growing deficits and punishing interest costs. As the war in Iraq turned nastier and lasted longer than he predicted, Bush refused to support a needed increase in the size of the Army, ensuring that the pain of his miscalculations would increasingly fall on active-duty, National Guard and Reserve soldiers sent into combat for more and longer stretches than expected.

Now, even as he warns of an unending battle against terrorists, he promises that "our servicemen will have more time on the home front."

Bush's campaign speech Monday in some ways sold short the results of a seri-

ous, years-long Pentagon review of military posture.

The Pentagon says that Cold War structures must give way to a 21st-century force, and we agree. The armed forces should become more agile and deployable, as Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has been arguing from the beginning of this term. It may well make sense for troops to spend more time training in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, closer to today's battlegrounds, rather than in Germany. Some redeployments no doubt also make sense, to respond to changing threats, reduce fixed-base vulnerabilities or political irritants (as in Seoul), and take advantage of new technologies.

But in substance as well as rhetoric, the

Bush plan raises questions. The military already has shrunk substantially in size and in its presence in Western Europe since the end of the Cold War. About 400,000 uniformed personnel out of 1.5 million serve abroad, but about half of those are in or around the battlefields of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Now the administration would pull out one-third of the 37,000 troops stationed in South Korea and about half of the 100,000 based in Europe.

This is a particularly bad idea in Asia. North Korea has pressed for U.S. troop withdrawals for years; now that it is misbehaving in the nuclear field, it receives a reward, and for no concessions. China is increasingly throwing its weight around Southeast Asia; countries there that want a U.S. counterbalance, even if they do not always dare say so, will

become less confident. Whoever is president in the next four years will be challenged by China's anger at an increasingly assertive Taiwan; reducing U.S. troop strength in the neighborhood cannot help him cope with that challenge.

Europe is less tense, but a U.S. presence is important nonetheless.

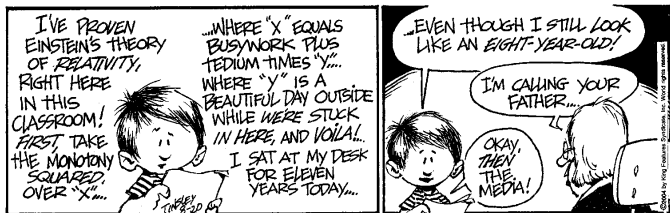
The conflicts of the past decade have been in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq; Africa is of increasing concern; none of these is closer to Kansas than to Germany.

Pentagon officials began planning this redeployment before the Iraq war, to bring greater rationality to force posture, not to punish allies that opposed the war or free up soldiers for the fight there.

But it can and must be seen now in the context of a war that has stretched the Army dangerously. The proper response is to recruit more soldiers. Bush's formulation does not bolster confidence in American global leadership.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



YOUR MONEY

Before giving car away...

BY AVYRUM D. LANK

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE — When Thomas Kaczynski's 1986 Toyota Camry hit 130,000 miles in June, he faced a common choice: Fix it up or get rid of it.

He opted for the latter.

But instead of trying to sell the car, the retired Milwaukee schoolteacher did what hundreds of thousands of other Americans do each year — he gave it away to charity.

His transaction appears to be one of those rare situations where everyone comes out ahead. Kaczynski avoided the hassle and expense of selling his car, and the charity got to reap its value. In addition, Kaczynski could qualify for a tax deduction.

But the situation is less clear-cut. Not every donor can claim a deduction, and not every charity ends up with a clear gain.

Engineering a mutually profitable vehicle donation can be as tricky as driving down a mountain road at night.

To help, the Internal Revenue Service recently issued a publication outlining its rules. Meanwhile, proposals are pending in Congress to tighten how the deductible value of donated vehicles is determined.

According to the law, the deduction is limited to the fair market value of the car, defined as "the price a willing buyer would pay and a willing seller would accept for the car, when neither party is compelled to buy or sell and both parties have reasonable knowledge of the relevant facts," according to the new IRS Publication 4303, "A Donor's Guide to Car Donations."

A fair price "may be substantially less than the 'blue book' value," the publication continues. "A used car guide may be a good starting point to value your car, but you should exercise caution."

Checking used car lots and newspaper ads for the prices of vehicles of similar age and make may aid in determining how much can be deducted. Keeping a record of such research also helps, in case the IRS decides to challenge the deduction.

In addition, a formal written appraisal must be obtained and reported to the IRS for vehicles worth \$5,000 or more. The IRS has strict guidelines for appraisers that are outlined in its Publication 561.

IRS charity guides

Several Internal Revenue Service publications are available to help people who are considering donating vehicles.

They include:

■ Publication 78, "Cumulative List of Organizations." This lists charitable organizations qualified to receive deductions. In addition to those listed, most churches, synagogues, temples and mosques also are qualified.

■ Publication 526, "Charitable Contributions."

■ Publication 561, "Determining the Value of Donated Property."

■ Publication 4303, "A Donor's Guide to Car Donations."

■ In addition, anyone claiming a deduction for a noncash charitable donation of \$500 or more must file Form 8283 with their tax return.

■ All IRS forms and publications are free and can be obtained by writing to the IRS Central Area Distribution Center, P.O. Box 8903, Bloomington, IL 61702-8903. They also are available on the Internet through the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov.

— Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

In the case of Kaczynski, however, none of this mattered, because of the amount he claimed the deduction, a taxpayer must itemize on his income tax forms.

"I don't have many deductions," he said, so he, along with about 60 percent of other taxpayers, takes the standard deduction.

Beyond a possible tax deduction, there is the question of how much money charities actually reap from vehicle donation programs.

According to a recent report by the U.S. General Accounting Office, it's not very much.

"Charities received between zero and 54 percent of the value claimed by donors, with most receiving 5 percent or less," the report said.

Don't let false hybrid brake

Dear Tom and Ray:

I am interested in purchasing a new car. I currently drive an Isuzu Rodeo. I am interested in a hybrid technology and, in particular, the Ford Escape Hybrid or Toyota Highlander Hybrid that are coming out in the next year. Based on my understanding of the technology, the braking is what charges the battery. I have heard that hybrids are really good for short trips, but that if I

wanted to drive my Escape Hybrid to Lake Tahoe from

San Francisco (about four hours), after about two hours or so the car would go slower and slower, because it is running on the battery on the freeway. And because I would not be braking frequently, the battery would not be charging. Bottom line: Are hybrids good for longer drives and multiple hours on the freeway, or would I be disappointed in the performance? Thanks. — Ramona

RAY: I doubt you'd be disappointed by the performance, Ramona. You've been given some interesting information.

TOM: While regenerative braking (taking the change in velocity that's created when the car slows down and turning it into electricity) is one way a hybrid charges its battery, it's not the only way. In fact, it's not even the primary way.

RAY: The gasoline engine is the main source of electricity for the battery pack. So, anytime you're driving — highway or city — the battery can be charged up if it needs charging, and it should never run low.

TOM: On the highway — no matter how long a trip — the gasoline engine and electric motor would work together as necessary, with no loss of power over time. So, there's nothing to worry about in that regard.

RAY: Now, you might have heard someone say that "hybrids do better around town than on the highway." That's true if you're talking about gas mileage. Because a hybrid makes more efficient use of the electric motor in stop-and-go driving, that's where you get the best gas mileage.

TOM: For example, the hybrid Toyota Prius is EPA rated at 60 miles per gallon in the city, and a measly 51 on the highway — the exact opposite of most cars we're used to. Even if those figures are a bit optimistic in real life, the ratio is correct, since you need more help from the gasoline engine on the highway than you do around town.

RAY: So, on the highway, you're simply not taking maximum advantage of the hybrid's fuel-saving capacity. But to answer your question, it will run all day for you, Ramona. You won't be limping into Tahoe with dim headlights, looking for a convenience store so you can buy oil out of D-cells.

TOM: By the way, if anyone is interested in reading more about hybrids, we have a whole section devoted to them on our Web site, www.cartalk.com.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week	Low	High	Name	Last
18,153.15	18,147.41	Dow Jones Industrials	18,153.15	+1.11
3,212.45	3,205.59	Dow Jones Transportation	3,212.45	+0.87
286.1	284.64	Dow Jones Utilities	286.1	+0.25
6,781.81	5,533.35	NYSE Composite	6,781.81	+66.48
956.65	956.65	S&P 500	956.65	+0.25
2,153.83	1,706.93	NASDAQ Composite	2,153.83	+36.12
1,153.23	983.57	S&P 500	1,153.23	+11.46
638.46	497.38	S&P MidCap	638.46	+10.33
695.42	471.92	Russell 2000	695.42	+14.61
13,717.1	13,510.91	DJ Wilshire 2000	13,717.1	+138.37

NYSE				
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Name	Vol	Open	Last	Change
Alcoa	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Boeing	248,661	30.41	30.41	+0.10
General Motors	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Intel	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Microsoft	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Johnson & Johnson	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Merck	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Procter & Gamble	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
United Technologies	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Verizon	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Walmart	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10

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EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates				
	Rate	Change	Rate	Change
Euro	\$1.2679			
British pound	\$1.88			
Japanese yen (Aug. 21)	107.00			
S. Korean won (Aug. 20)	1,137.00			
Commercial rates				
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770			
British pound	\$1.88			
Canada (Dollar)	1.3005			
Denmark (Krone)	6.0191			
East Germany (Mark)	2.320			
Euro	\$1.2679			
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.993			
Hungary (Forint)	206.48			
Israel (Shekel)	71.00			
Jordan (Dinar)	0.5287			
Kuwait (Dinar)	4.2942			
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	6.7			
Philippines (Peso)	65.77			
South Africa (Rand)	1.7857			
S. Korea (Won)	1,154.90			
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0422			
Thailand (Baht)	1.0422			
Turkey (Lira)	1,470,588.00			

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Name	Vol	Open	Last	Change
Alcoa	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Boeing	248,661	30.41	30.41	+0.10
General Motors	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Intel	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Microsoft	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Johnson & Johnson	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Merck	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Procter & Gamble	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
United Technologies	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Verizon	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10
Walmart	1,076	31.76	31.76	+0.10

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day
Regular gas will do trick

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Many people believe that buying premium gasoline will help their cars run better, but unless you own a sports car or luxury vehicle, it really won't make a difference. With prices at the pump pulled so far into the red, buying high-grade gas is one expense you could well do without.

You should pay for premium only if your car requires the fuel, advised Mark A. Baxter, director of the Maguire Energy Institute at Southern Methodist University in Texas. "If you think it's going to run faster or you're

going to get better mileage, don't waste your money," he said.

According to Consumer Reports, most engines are designed for low-octane fuel. Octane ratings, a measure of how gas performs in a one-cylinder test engine, are based on a gasoline's resistance to engine knock — rattling sounds that occur when compressed fuel and air prematurely ignite. Higher ratings correspond with more resistant formulations: Regular fuel is usually 87, midgrade is 89 and premium is 92 or 93.

To find out what type of fuel your car needs, first check the owner's manual.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low to mid 70s and tomorrow morning's low in the low 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Expect highs in the mid 70s and tomorrow morning's low in the high 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s and tomorrow morning's low in the high 50s.

France: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s to mid 80s and tomorrow morning's low in the mid 50s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. High temperatures in the low 80s and tomorrow morning's low in the low 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. High temperatures in the low 80s and tomorrow morning's low in the low 50s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s and tomorrow morning's low in the mid 60s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. High temperatures in the mid 80s and tomorrow morning's low in the high 50s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. High temperatures in the lower 80s and tomorrow morning's low in the low 70s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. High temperatures in the low 90s and tomorrow morning's low in the high 60s.

Norway: Cloudy with rain showers. Expect high temperatures in the mid 60s and tomorrow morning's low in the mid 50s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. High temperatures in the upper 70s to mid 80s and tomorrow morning's low in the low 70s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. High temperatures will be in the mid to upper 90s and tomorrow morning's low in the low 70s.

AFRICA

Cape Town	72	HI	LO	Mogadishu	74	HI	LO
Algeria	72	HI	LO	Nairobi	84	HI	LO
Freetown	82	HI	LO	Rabat	80	HI	LO
Khartoum	89	HI	LO	Tripoli	103	HI	LO

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	67	HI	LO	Manila	80	HI	LO
Bahrain	102	HI	LO	Mexico City	73	HI	LO
Beijing	82	HI	LO	Montreal	74	HI	LO
Bombay	80	HI	LO	New York	78	HI	LO
Buenos Aires	82	HI	LO	Rio de Janeiro	82	HI	LO
Calcutta	79	HI	LO	Sydney	83	HI	LO
Caracas	79	HI	LO	Tokyo	85	HI	LO
Hong Kong	82	HI	LO				
London	79	HI	LO				
Los Angeles	79	HI	LO				
Madrid	82	HI	LO				
Moscow	76	HI	LO				
Paris	77	HI	LO				
Seoul	82	HI	LO				
Singapore	82	HI	LO				
Taipei	82	HI	LO				
Tel Aviv	82	HI	LO				
Tokyo	85	HI	LO				
Yokohama	82	HI	LO				

MIDEAST

A map of the Middle East and surrounding regions, including parts of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Central Asia. Major cities are marked with black dots and labeled with their names and coordinates. The map shows the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea. The city of Baghdad is highlighted with a star. The city of Ashgabat is highlighted with a star. The city of Kabul is highlighted with a star. The city of Islamabad is highlighted with a star. The city of New Delhi is highlighted with a star. The city of Hyderabad is highlighted with a star. The city of Bombay is highlighted with a star. The city of Karachi is highlighted with a star. The city of Dhahran is highlighted with a star. The city of Tehran is highlighted with a star. The city of Ahsanabad is highlighted with a star. The city of Ashgabat is highlighted with a star. The city of Kabul is highlighted with a star. The city of Islamabad is highlighted with a star. 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Ed the ripper

OR ROSEBURG — A retired pastor reclaimed his title as world champion phone book ripper by tearing through 39 Portland white page directories in three minutes.

About 100 people watched Saturday as Ed Charon, 69, ripped the 1,004-page books in half during the exhibition at the Roseburg Valley Mall.

After the first 60 seconds, Charon had already ripped through 16 phone books, three shy of the number he tore through two years ago when he originally set the world's record.

He'd almost finished ripping the 40th volume when time expired and the audience erupted in applause.

"Oh, I wanted 40," Charon said. "I wonder how long 39 will stand up."

Ducks in love

AK ANCHORAGE — Ten male and seven female Steller's eiders were collected from the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands in 2003 and installed in a large outdoor pen at the Seward center as part of a federally funded captive breeding program.

To help get the ducks in the mood this spring, their 25-foot-by-60-foot pen was converted into something more cozy, with tundra grasses, moss, pebbles, driftwood and natural barriers for increased privacy.

Then, the researchers watched and waited.

"We saw courtship behavior, such as mating displays including head throws, bill lifts — typical eider mating behavior that we know of from the wild," said Tuula Holmlen, the center's eider program manager.

In the end, the males apparently were a bit shy. No olive-colored eggs were produced.

"I would say that the females were more ready than the males," said Heidi Weingartz, the center's avian curator. "If it was up to the girls, there would be a lot more babies around."

Mystery illness

OH PUT-IN-BAY — A mysterious illness on Lake Erie's South Bass Island has sickened dozens of tourists and residents, baffling health officials who are searching for a connection.

In the past two weeks, the Ottawa County Health Department has documented 78 cases and is investigating more than 90 other claims, said Director Nancy Osborn.

"We're still looking for the link," Osborn said.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has ordered a winery and a bar to stop using their septic systems after finding wells at the sites tested positive for E. coli, said spokeswoman Diana Pierce.

She cautioned there is no known connection between the illnesses and the businesses, and added some people who became sick did not visit either business.

King statue vandalized

TX AUSTIN — Vandalism at the statue of slain civil

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. on the University of Texas campus was captured on a security camera and authorities are looking for two men in connection with the attack.

The statue on the East Mall near the UT Tower was spray-painted over the weekend. It was the second act of vandalism at the statue in 19 months.

"The statue of Doctor King is a symbol of the university's commitment to serve all Texans, regardless of race, ethnicity or income," UT President Larry Faulkner wrote in an e-mail Monday to staff and students. "The two individuals who attacked the statue in darkness only reinforce that commitment."

Two die in chase

GA SAVANNAH — A high-speed chase that covered 76 miles turned deadly when Georgia state troopers used a ramming technique to spin the fleeing vehicle off the highway, killing the driver and her teenager passenger.

The fatal crash ended the Interstate 95 chase Tuesday that started in South Carolina and crossed into coastal Georgia, with speeds reaching 105 mph.



Averting catastrophe

Bowling Green, Ky., fire department Capt. Levy Davis uses oxygen to revive a cat as one of her kittens watches after they were rescued from a house fire Tuesday. Firefighters rescued three cats from the blaze that gutted a home. All three animals were taken to the Bowling Green/Warren County Humane Society.

The driver, identified as 21-year-old Katie Sharp of Holly Hill, Fla., started fleeing when Colleton County sheriff's deputies tried to stop her for speeding at 86 mph in a 70 mph zone, said sheriff's Capt. Kent Tisdale.

The Georgia State Patrol took up the chase when the speeding Nissan Pathfinder crossed the state line near Savannah.

A pursuing trooper tried to stop the vehicle using a tactical ramming maneuver, steering the patrol car's front bumper into the fleeing vehicle behind its rear wheels, said Sgt. Chad Riner of the Georgia State Patrol.

The Pathfinder spun off the interstate and struck a tree. Sharp and her passenger, Garrett Gabe, 17, of Pennsylvania, died instantly, Riner said.

Disabled residents sue

MI DETROIT — Attorneys for five disabled residents filed a lawsuit Tuesday claiming the city's failure to fix broken wheelchair lifts on its buses constitutes discrimination.

The federal lawsuit says the city Transportation Department frequently uses buses without working lifts, and asks the court to compel the city to inspect, maintain and repair bus wheelchair lifts.

The city had not been served with the suit as of Tuesday evening, but city attorney Ruth Carter said officials look forward to resolving the issue for the benefit of all bus riders and the city.

Dying wish fulfilled

CT ROCKY HILL — As he lay dying of esophageal cancer, 72-year-old Robert Guillemette had one last wish — to be reunited with his brother, whom he had not seen since 1990.

Guillemette's family did everything they could to make the wish come true. They spent months making fruitless phone calls and Internet searches looking for any trace of Raymond Guillemette.

A newspaper report turned out to offer hope.

Rich Kunze, a nurse at the State Veterans' Hospital in Rocky Hill, saw an article in the Record-Journal of Meriden about the family's effort, and suspected he knew where the lost relative was — at the adjoining veterans' home.

The resident was Raymond Guillemette. The brothers were reunited Tuesday.

"We've been looking for you for a long time," said Guillemette's sister, Theresa Richards, 75, as she hugged Guillemette and choked back tears. "It was quite an ordeal, but it was worth it."

Bonus for better tests

ID BOISE — A state education committee is considering paying teachers a bonus if students improve their test scores.

Ideas discussed at a brainstorming session included cash awards for teachers or entire schools whose students show improvement on standardized tests.

Committee members say they'll seek legislative approval of a pay-for-performance pilot program.



That's my baby

A female bonobo, or pygmy chimpanzee, named Lana holds her baby Tuesday, at the San Diego Zoo in San Diego. The baby, born Sunday, is Lana's third offspring.



Go, Granny, go

Ken Slater, right, helps Helen Self onto Dwayne Fowler's Harley-Davidson in Missoula, Mont. Self, who turned 95 on Tuesday, celebrated her birthday with a ride on the motorcycle.



Capitol improvement Workers Walter Portillo, right, and Jose Taboada guide a slab of marble step as it is removed from the Capitol in Richmond, Va., on Wednesday. The Capitol is undergoing a three-year renovation project. It will take about three weeks to remove all the steps.



Git along, ol' paint

Colton Hokana, 5, of Columbia, S.D., tries to get his miniature paint, Oreo George, to cooperate Monday during the Open Youth Horse Show at the Brown County Fair in Aberdeen, S.D.



Flush with success

Scott Wade of Sorento, Ill., chases his daughter Alex, 11, on motorized commodes during the toilet bowl races at the Illinois State Fair on Tuesday. The races are in The Wonderful World of Sports area at the fair.



Planning ahead

Ahmad Rashed, of Rashed's Garden Center in Brattleboro, Vt., pots freshly planted poinsettia cuttings in his greenhouse. Rashed says that the plants are finicky and difficult to grow, requiring much care over the months before they are ready to grace holiday homes.

Big response to jobs

CA Hundreds of thousands of applicants are competing for 3,000 temporary jobs the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, hoping for lucrative wages in an otherwise weak labor market.

The jobs, which pay \$20 to \$28 an hour, were created to handle a record amount of cargo coming through both ports.

A Long Beach post office spokesman said Tuesday that a conservative estimate put the number of mailed-in applications at 220,000 to 250,000. The number may have been inflated by applicants sending in more than one each, though officials have said people who do so would be rejected.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union asked a mediator whether the hiring process could be delayed to ensure that everything runs smoothly, but the mediator ordered the union and West Coast shipping lines to proceed with their lottery and begin picking the 3,000 new dockworkers Thursday, as planned.

Offensive newsletter suit

ME PORTLAND — The Maine Human Rights Commission has sided with two postal carriers who say a Christian-themed column in a union newsletter amounts to religious discrimination.

The pair targeted a monthly column entitled "Directions From God's Handbook" in a monthly newsletter distributed to more than 100,000 members of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

One recent column urged readers to bring the "good news of Christ's salvation to non-Christians," and another said God's people are those who accept Jesus.

Dick Springer of Portland, who describes himself as a "nonbeliever," said the column is offensive to him. "The organization takes my money and uses it to proselytize for religious beliefs which are not mine," he told Maine Public Radio.

Springer's co-worker, Eric Coperman of Cape Elizabeth, who is Jewish, said the Christian proselytizing smacks of anti-Semitism.

Wrong bus stop

TX BROWNSVILLE — A 6-year-old girl had to get a ride home with police after she was mistakenly dropped off at the wrong bus stop.

Ariadne Galvan, a second-grader at Ortiz Elementary, was dropped off by a Brownsville school bus about two miles from her home.

Ariadne was about to cross a busy highway when a resident saw her and called police after school Monday.

She was wearing an identification tag around her neck that listed her address.

The child's mother, Sandy Galvan, said she was perplexed that her child had been dropped off at the wrong stop, considering she was wearing the required identification information.

Brownsville school district spokeswoman Drue Brown said the case is under investigation. Of officials said the bus driver was a substitute driver who wasn't familiar with the stops.

Land dispute over

KA KANSAS CITY — The Wyandotte Nation has ended its pursuit of more than 19,000 acres of industrial land in Kansas City.

The tribe announced that it would not appeal a federal judge's decision to dismiss its claim.

The Wyandottes sued for the land in 2002, citing tribal treaties from the 1800s. The move was part of an effort to build a casino in Wyandotte County. The judge ruled the tribe had waited too long to press its claim.

Ex-wife spoils robbery

OH MIDDLETOWN — A suspected bank robber's getaway was abruptly cut short by an unusual witness — his ex-wife, authorities said.

Police accuse Daniel Waggoner, 31, of robbing a bank branch in a Kroger grocery store Tuesday. Police and witnesses said he passed a note demanding money, received cash from tellers and fled.

Detective Frank Hensley said Waggoner's ex-wife later saw him driving on State Route 122, and wondered what he was doing in Middletown. When the woman reached the Kroger, she learned that the bank branch was closed because of the robbery.

She went to another branch and told the teller that her ex-husband had been in Middletown shortly after the robbery and that he had gotten out of prison a year ago after serving a sentence for bank robbery.

Prowling around town

NY NEW YORK — Dressed in a tuxedo, Simba sat at the front of one of Manhattan's newest dining establishments and nodded at people who greeted him.

But he yawned, began to roll on the floor and lick his paws.

That's acceptable behavior at the Meow Mix Cafe, a new eatery designed especially for cats and their human owners.

Simba, an 8-month-old kitten, was joined by about two dozen other tabbies, Persians and Burmese for a feast at Tuesday's grand opening of the cafe, which is owned by the Meow Mix Company, a Secaucus, N.J.-based cat food maker.

"Why not take your cat out for dinner?" asked Simba's owner, Leah Thompson, 19. "There's always things for dogs, but never cats."

Suicide ends crime spree

FL TAMPA — Robert Able started his crime odyssey Monday morning by shooting his ailing girlfriend, once in the head and once in her heart.

Then he lured a 12-year-old neighborhood girl into his home and raped her.

Less than 24 hours later, as police searched the city for him, Able shot himself in the head with the same gun. He died inside a pickup truck at the body shop where he has worked for the past 16 years.

Police say Able apparently caved in to the pressures of mounting debt and his girlfriend's health troubles.

Stories and photos from wire services



Ribbon time

Mark Abell, of Jackson, Ohio, front, judges the Advanced English Pleasure Riding Class at the Lake County Fair on Tuesday in Cleveland.

Patty Duke gets her star



AP

Academy Award winner and television actress Patty Duke poses with her sons, actors Mackenzie Astin, left, and Sean Astin, after being honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Bullock battles builder in court

BY JIM VERTUNO

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Miss Congeniality is waging a legal battle. Sandra Bullock is in Travis County court Wednesday in a dispute with the Austin developer she hired to build a luxury home that she says is defective.

The developer, M.B. "Benny" Daneshjoo, claims the movie star owes him money and that the Lake Austin home was fine. He filed a lawsuit against the actress and she countersued.

Travis County District Judge Paul Davis barred cameras from the courtroom for the trial that's expected to last more than a month.

"In the courtroom, I want her to be a regular person," Davis said. The star of the "Speed" movies and various romantic comedies including "Miss Congeniality" has been entangled in litigation with Daneshjoo for several years.

Bullock, 40, first contracted with Daneshjoo in 1997 to build the lakefront house. She also agreed to become a partner with him in a development project. But she now says that she spent millions on a house that was unlivable. She said the home needed massive repairs and that Daneshjoo committed fraud in the development project in which she invested more than \$300,000. In previous legal filings, Bullock claimed she spent \$6.5 million on the house.

Daneshjoo claims she caused the delays on her home and that any finding of shoddy construction should be blamed on the project manager, who under contract assumed responsibility for the job.

Opening statements in the case were expected to begin as soon as Thursday.



Bullock

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2004					
(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Dr. Phil	The Mummy	Nightline	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	The Fairy OddParents
9:30 As Told by Ginger	Headline News	Headline News	The Simpsons	SpongeBob	As Told by Ginger
10:00 Oprah Winfrey	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy! With Chris Matthews	Happy Days	Headline News	Jeopardy!
10:30 Guiding Light	Wheel of Fortune	Primitime Thursday	Charmed "Valhalla of the Dolos" (Part 1 of 2)	King of the Hill	Headline News
11:00 ESPNNews	King of the Hill	The O'Reilly Factor	The Crocodile Hunter "Outlaws of the Outback" to the Wire"	The Apprentice "Down to the Wire"	ESPNNews
11:30 General Hospital	Advisory Block	Good Morning America	XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Men's basketball; Australia vs. USA; rowing semifinals; men's water polo; Hungary vs. USA.	World-Wildlife	Headline News
12:30 Judge Judy	Malcolm in the Middle	Headline News	The X-Files "Field Trip"	Guiding Light	Headline News
13:00 Today: Nia Vardalos; 10 days' Greek Kitchen.	The District "Criminally Insane"	World News	The Simpsons	Access Hollywood	Headline News
14:00 The X-Files "Field Trip"	Headline News	The Early Show	Happy Days	XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News
14:30 The X-Files "Field Trip"	Headline News	Headline News	Charmed "Valhalla of the Dolos" (Part 1 of 2)	King of the Hill	Headline News
15:00 Baby Looney Tunes	Headline News	Headline News	World-Wildlife	Animal Adventures	Headline News
15:30 Rocko's Modern Life	Late Show	World News	PGA Golf WGC NEC Invitational - Second Round, From Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio. (Same-Day Tape)	Buffy the Vampire Slayer "Lessons"	Headline News
16:00 The Fairy OddParents	Guiding Light	The Early Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
16:30 As Told by Ginger	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:00 Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:30 Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
18:00 Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
18:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
19:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
19:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
20:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
20:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
21:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
21:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
22:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
22:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
23:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
23:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece. Beach volleyball, USA eliminates round match; swimming, track and field final, men's 10,000m.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2004					
0:00 Movie *** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986, Comedy) Matthew Broderick, Mia Sara.	Clifford's Puppy Days	Headline News	PGA Golf: WGC NEC Invitational - Third Round.	The X-Files "Field Trip"	Clifford's Puppy Days
1:00 Scooby-Doo	ChalkZone	NBC Nightly News	Headline News	The View	ChalkZone
1:30 Scooby-Doo	CBS Evening News	ABC World News	Headline News	Headline News	Scooby-Doo
2:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	CBS Evening News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
2:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics	Hannity & Colmes	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
3:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Hannity & Colmes	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
3:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
4:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
4:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
5:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
5:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
6:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
6:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
7:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
7:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
8:00 ChalkZone	Sports Figures	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	ChalkZone
8:30 Scooby-Doo	Scout's Safari (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Scooby-Doo
9:00 Pokemon-John	Trading Spaces	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Pokemon-John
9:30 Kenny the Shark (E)	The Best Of	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Kenny the Shark (E)
10:00 Lizzie McGuire	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Lizzie McGuire
10:30 Scout's Safari (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Scout's Safari (E)
11:00 Focus on the Force	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Focus on the Force
11:30 The Best Of	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Best Of
12:00 Entertainment Tonight	My Wife and Kids	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Entertainment Tonight
12:30 WWE Raw	CSI: Miami "Blood Brothers"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	WWE Raw
13:00 My Wife and Kids	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Tragedy"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	My Wife and Kids
14:00 Hall & Hall (Part 2 of 2)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Hall & Hall (Part 2 of 2)
14:30 CSI: Miami "Blood Brothers"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	CSI: Miami "Blood Brothers"
15:00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Tragedy"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Tragedy"
16:00 Hall & Hall (Part 2 of 2)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Hall & Hall (Part 2 of 2)
16:30 CSI: Miami "Blood Brothers"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	CSI: Miami "Blood Brothers"
17:00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Tragedy"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Tragedy"
17:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics	XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
18:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics	XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
18:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics	XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
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22:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics	XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
23:00 XXVIII Summer Olympics	XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics
23:30 XXVIII Summer Olympics	XXVIII Summer Olympics	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	XXVIII Summer Olympics

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FACES 'N' PLACES

Sounds of war



Members of Major Rene Brown's One Voice, One Sound Gospel Choir perform on a Baghdad rooftop in May. Despite heavy fighting nearby, the choir kept singing as they were filmed by George Gittoes for his documentary "Soundtrack to War." Gittoes spent four months with American soldiers who shared with him the role music plays in their survival during the war in Iraq.

AP

Documentary shows how music helped soldiers in Iraq

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER
The Associated Press

The images captured in "VH1 News Presents: Soundtrack To War," combines the use of music by America's soldiers and the unsettling pictures of war.

A group of soldiers stand on a rooftop, singing gospel music. Suddenly, bombs explode. Nearby, black smoke rises.

A tank crew cranks up a heavy metal song to gear up for combat.

Using personal testimonies, the one-hour documentary examines the soldiers' use of music for inspiration, motivation and mourning. The result: a unique look at youth in war.

"Soundtrack To War," which aired Wednesday in the states, follows soldiers of the Army's 1st Armored Division during their 15-month deployment in Iraq from April 2003 to July 2004, one of the military's longest deployments since Vietnam.

"They couldn't do it without their music. They couldn't get through it without it," Australian filmmaker George Gittoes says.

Gittoes, who directed this documentary, relies on the soldiers to tell their own story of songs — including ones written by the soldiers — push the documentary along.

The approach is effective, giving viewers a sense of who these soldiers are and what they face. Several scenes in Gittoes' film were featured in Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11." But unlike Moore's film, "Soundtrack To War" centers on the soldiers' personal feelings rather than their political ones.

While soldiers are typically cautious with their comments, they open up to Gittoes about music. And as they do, they talk about their war experiences.

The documentary begins with soldiers confiding how various songs — from Drowning Pool's "Let the Bodies Hit the Road" to Mystikal's "Round Out the Tank" — help psyche them up before battle.

One soldier explains why Drowning Pool's song was the motto for his tank

crew during battles. Another tells how rapper Tupac Shakur's songs were funneled through headsets in a M-1 Abrams tank as it rolled from Kuwait into Iraq at the start of the war, and then changed to the Triple 6 Mafia when they hit the streets of Baghdad.

In one scene, a soldier talks about his affinity for punk rock and how few in his unit like the music. He tells Gittoes how there was another soldier he bonded with over the music — one who was later killed by a roadside bomb.

In another scene, Pfc. Yona Hagos raps about being "like a biological weapon" and surviving enemy gunfire. In the credits, viewers learn he was later hit with a rocket-propelled grenade.

"The song is about trying to survive," Hagos told The Associated Press. "I'm trying to get over it. It's not something you just get over in a few days or a few months."

In one of the film's most memorable segments, a scene opens with soldiers on patrol in Baghdad when a car bomb explodes, killing a family in a car. In the back seat, a child's toys are splattered with blood. The scene moves to two soldiers —

Spc. Joshua Revak and Sgt. Trenton Dull — sitting near a tank, strumming acoustic guitars. They explain how they became friends during the war, and wrote a song together to honor fallen comrades.

"No other American sitting back in America can ever come close to understanding what a soldier goes through on the streets of Baghdad," Revak says.

Later in the film, Gittoes returns to Revak.

"We've lost a lot of brothers. It gets tougher every day," he says. "The only way I've been able to deal with that is to write music."

Spc. Janel Daniels is yet another soldier who writes songs to cope.

"All you have is destruction around you. You have no idea what's about to happen. It's so hard with everything going on. Music is vital out there," Daniels told the AP.

In the film's final scenes, there's a message of hope as three young soldiers — all from different ethnic backgrounds — rap about their experiences in Iraq.

"Music," Spc. Jaimeron Tippins, one of the trio, says in the film, "has a lot to do with uniting us out here."

Toronto film festival lineup announced

"Trauma," a twisting flick starring Colin Firth, is one of several movies to open next month at the Toronto International Film Festival.

In the Marc Evans film, Firth awakens from a coma after a car crash to learn his wife was killed. Or was she? Other films to make their world or North American premieres at the Sept. 9-18 festival include German director Hendrik Holtemann's "Off Beat," about a melancholy young man who meets the woman who has been appearing in his dreams.

From the United States comes Michael Skolnick's "On the Out," about a trio of Latino teens from New Jersey whose lives intersect in juvenile detention.

Pete Travis' British-Irish production "Omagh" examines the 1998 Irish bombing of the small Irish town.

Michael Winterbottom of Britain brings his "9 Songs," which alternates between live music performances and a London couple's explicit sexcapades.



Firth

Organizers hope to schedule more than 300 films from 50 countries on 21 screens during the two-week event.

The world premiere of Istvan Szabo's "Being Julia," starring Annette Bening and Jeremy Irons, will open the festival. Bening plays a stage actress in London's West End seeking revenge on a manipulative lover in the film, adapted from Somerset Maugham's novel "Theatre."

A special festival category, "South Africa: 10 Years Later," will focus on films from the country, which held its first free elections in 1994 after the collapse of apartheid.

New musical opening off-Broadway

Transport Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor" to post-Vietnam War Texas, add Gary Sandy of the vintage television sitcom "WKRP in Cincinnati" as well as the Red Clay Ramblers, and you will get "Lone Star Love," a new off-Broadway musical, opening in December.

The 58-year-old Sandy portrays Frank Ford, a husband of one of those merry wives, it was announced Tuesday.

"Lone Star Love" has been loosely adapted from the Bard by John L. Haber, with music and lyrics by Jack Herrick. Michael Bogdanov (the show's director), Bland Simpson and Tommy Thompson also have made contributions.

"Lone Star Love" opens Dec. 8 at a new off-Broadway

space, the Cooper Cohen Amas Musical Theatre. Preview performances begin Nov. 21.

Cruise won't comment on vote

Tom Cruise says he respects the right of entertainers to participate in political campaigning, but his vote in the upcoming presidential election will remain private.

During a news conference in Mexico's capital Monday to promote the local release of "Collateral," Cruise was asked his preference when it comes to President Bush and Democratic nominee John Kerry.

"Politics is something that is very personal to me," Cruise said. "I am not going to comment publicly [about] who I'm going to vote for. ... I don't want what I say to become a political football."

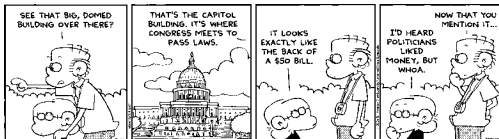
"But I do believe and I encourage people to go out and study the issues, get beyond the propaganda," he said.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Cruise

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



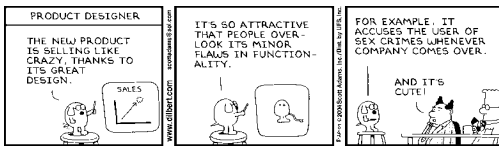
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



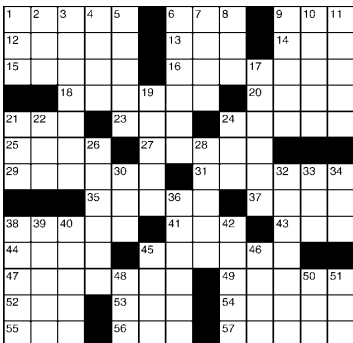
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Guitar-neck features
- 6 Make a decision
- 9 Rather's network
- 12 Station
- 13 By means of
- 14 Appomattox VIP
- 15 Acid type
- 16 Gourmand
- 18 Sound quality
- 20 Pay attention
- 21 Cattle call
- 23 Crony
- 24 Shoppers' aids
- 25 Cavort
- 27 1976 Sally Field TV movie
- 29 "— not to reason why, ..."
- 31 Give in
- 35 Big production number?
- 37 Jet forth
- 38 Teapot feature
- 41 He gives a hoot
- 43 Altar
- 44 Sumptuous
- 45 In possession of
- 47 Serial segment
- 49 Incursion
- 52 Pop
- 53 Zilch
- 54 Profession
- 55 Witness
- 56 Em halves
- 57 Mead's

Down

- 1 Food safety org.
- 2 Sleep phenom
- 3 Embodiment
- 4 Writter Morrison
- 5 Unorthodox
- 6 Too
- 7 Prop for
- 8 Sherlock
- 8 Mai —
- 9 This list
- 10 Guardian Angel's
- 11 Burpee wares
- 17 Agree factor
- 19 Deep voice
- 21 "A-Team" actor
- 22 La-la lead-in
- 24 Tell tales
- 26 Irritates
- 28 Muscle power
- 30 Same old same-old
- 32 Terse
- 33 Actor Beatty
- 34 See 48-Down
- 36 Ersatz beach blankets
- 38 Coasters
- 39 Former
- 40 Water, for instance
- 42 Elevators
- 45 Thor's father
- 46 Asda's mistress
- 48 With 34-Down, kayo combination
- 50 Commotion
- 51 Verily

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-20

CRYPTOQUIP

L LEXHLUV X OKQKG
OKKGLUXJKG'F EKJJK
ELHWJ AV "XQQ'F ZVQQ

JWXJ A QVUMF ZVQQ!"
Yesterday's Cryptquip: DO YOU THINK THAT A MONASTERY'S LEADING MONK COULD BE CALLED THE BIG BROTHER?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: K equals O

Man's ex gets in way of his future

Dear Abby: I am in an uncomfortable spot. I met a great woman last month and have developed feelings for her.

I'll call her Carmen. Every time I try to focus my energy into starting this relationship, my ex, "Rita," pops back into the picture.

Most recently, she was calling about a cell phone we had when we were together.

Carmen is aware that I got out of a 5 1/2-year relationship six months ago, but every time Rita does something to upset me, Carmen tells me she thinks I am not over Rita.

Abby, I feel the relationship with my ex is over. I sincerely want to explore things with Carmen.

I have talked to Rita a few times to get everything squared away so there will be no more

reasons for further contact, but something else always keeps coming up.

I don't want Carmen to be scared off.

What should I do? — Ready to Move on in Duluth

Dear Ready: If you allow it, Rita will always find a excuse to maintain contact. It is time to put your former firmly behind you and move on with your new relationship.

This means making a clean break with Rita. Tell her that communicating with her is causing problems for you, so you won't be doing it anymore.

Then keep your word — no phone calls, no e-mails, no in-person visits.

Dear Abby: I am one of your older readers — age 90 — but I

don't look a day over 70. I recently told my sister that I wear hip-huggers, and she asked me if I'm going senile. She thinks it's awful.

I say hip-huggers are comfortable in the summer heat.

What is your opinion on the situation?

— "Hip" in Casselberry, Fla.

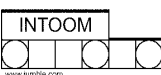
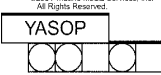
Dear "Hip": I know women 30 years younger than you who are reluctant to bear their midriffs because their skin is no longer taut.

However, since you are comfortable wearing hip-hugger pants, the choice should be yours and your sister should refrain from making any more caty comments. (Could she be jealous?)

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: "CLOVE PEONY THORAX NOVICE" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: CLOVE PEONY THORAX NOVICE

Answer: Needed before the cement truck arrives — A "CONCRETE" PLAN

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer suggested by the above cartoon.

Friend in a bind over grandfather

Dear Annie: I am caught between a rock and a hard place. My friend "Stephanie" is 45, and I am 37. We've been friends for years.

Stephanie lives with her parents, and I am over at their place a great deal. On several occasions, I have seen her father looking at child pornography on the computer. Her dad is 74 years old and has five grandchildren who visit his home quite often. I don't know if he ever has touched those children inappropriately, but I can tell you that every time I have seen them with their grandfather, he is awfully affectionate.

The rest of the family knows about Dad's interests, but they do nothing about it. Stephanie told me it would be too difficult to report her own father.

I don't think this is normal. Is it?

— Confused in Ohio
Dear Ohio: Hogswash. Men in their 70s don't develop a sudden

Annie's Mailbox



interest in child pornography simply because they have reached a certain age. On the other hand, the fact that his grandchildren climb on his lap is meaningless. If they were reluctant to be affectionate with Grandpa, that would be a greater cause for concern, but it's not conclusive either way.

It is foolish for the family to disregard Dad's proclivities. Child pornography is illegal. Tell Stephanie that to ensure the children's safety, there should be supervision whenever they visit Grandpa.

Grandpa also should get counseling, before he gets arrested.

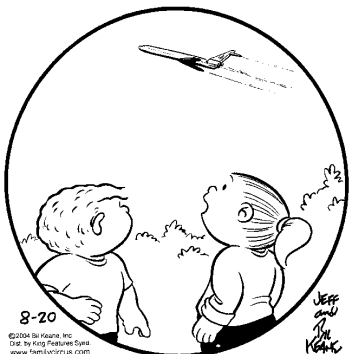
Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Worried in Ohio," whose 11-year-old son, "Ian," used a screwdriver to force open his parents' bedroom door. His mom says he walked in on them having sex.

He didn't "walk in," he broke in. I can't believe that neither you nor the psychiatrist you consulted commented on that. Doesn't such budding criminal behavior seem a little disturbed to you? Or at the least, self-centered and over-indulged? Haven't his parents taught him to respect their privacy?

— Middle School Teacher
Dear Teacher: We addressed the issue we felt was most important — that Ian has not yet come to terms with his mother having sex with Dad. Of course breaking into the bedroom was a bit extreme, but more, shall we say, resourceful than criminal. The parents should let Ian know such behavior is not acceptable, but the boy has obvious emotional issues, and that's where the primary emphasis should be.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

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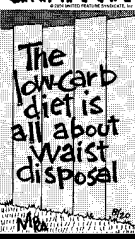


8-20

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"I know where that plane is going. To an airport."

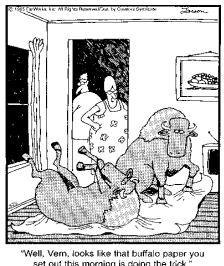
GRAFFITI



Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



Fighting intensifies in Georgia dispute

BY YURI BAGROV
The Associated Press

TSKHINVALI, Georgia — Georgian government forces engaged separatists in battle for strategic areas near the center city of separatist South Ossetia on Thursday in some of the worst fighting in the breakaway region since a war more than a decade ago.

Georgian officials said three Georgian troops were killed overnight, while South Ossetia's military chief said three civilians died in Georgian shelling of Tskhinvali, the regional capital.

Fighting has raged nightly in the tiny province despite a cease fire agreement negotiated last week, and government and separatist officials have blamed one another for breaking the truce.

Tensions in South Ossetia, which broke away from the central government in 1992 following an 18-month war that killed hundreds, have flared up since the January election of Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, who has pledged to unite his fractured country.

Georgian Defense Ministry spokeswoman Natia Chikova said early Thursday that six Georgian servicemen were killed and seven wounded overnight as separatists fired at Georgian troops' positions outside ethnic Georgian villages in the province. She later corrected these numbers to three killed and eight wounded, saying the initial reports were wrong.

The latest casualties have brought the number of Georgian soldiers killed since Friday's truce to nine, according to official statements.

In a counterattack, government forces captured hills overlooking a strategic road linking ethnic Georgian villages in South Ossetia with the rest of Georgia, and killed eight Cossack mercenaries, said Georgian Interior Minister Irakli Okruashvili.

"In a brilliant operation ... our military has destroyed the group that has been shelling our positions," Saakashvili said Thursday. South Ossetia officials denied Georgian forces had captured the hills, calling it "wishful thinking" and saying fighting in the area was continuing.

South Ossetia's separatist authorities accused Georgia of launching an "aggression."

Separatist Defense Minister Anatoly Barankevich said a Georgian artillery shell killed three civilians — a man and his father and 14-year-old son — in a house on the outskirts of Tskhinvali.



Georgian Defense Minister Giorgi Baramidze speaks Monday at a news conference, in Tbilisi, warning that separatists in South Ossetia are blocking peace efforts.

Egg truck slimes road

The Associated Press

BERLIN — A German super-highway was closed down to one lane for hours Thursday after a truck hauling 15 tons of eggs crashed, scattering its load and creating a slimy mess across the autobahn near Hanover.

The truck swerved to avoid a metal object in the road and hit a barrier at about 1 a.m., tipping over and crushing the eggs,

which flowed across the highway, police said.

The 43-year-old driver was injured and taken to a hospital, but was expected to be released later in the day.

Two of the three southbound lanes were shut down as crews cleaned up the mess into Thursday afternoon. Police estimated the total damage at 100,000 euros, the equivalent of \$124,000.

Officials: People ignored France storm warning

PARIS — Storm warnings in France were lifted Thursday after two days of violent rain that killed nine people who ignored bans on swimming at hard-hit Mediterranean beaches, the Interior Ministry said.

Rescuers were still searching for at least two people believed missing in southern France, where the storms started Tuesday.

The ban on swimming was not taken seriously enough, said Eric Soupra of the Interior Ministry's civil security service.

"The carelessness and recklessness of some people has resulted in a tragic death toll," Soupra said.

Torrential storms and rough winds swept much of the French Riviera and then headed north to Paris, where parks and cemeteries were closed Wednesday afternoon for fear of falling trees.

From The Associated Press

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RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Victory Lane is driving away race winners

Sponsorship flap making some skip NASCAR's traditional celebration

BY JOHN KEKIS
The Associated Press

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — At the end of the drivers' meeting for last Sunday's Sirius at the Glen, Ryan Newman popped the all-important question.

"Where's Victory Lane?" he asked with a devilish smile, even prompting a grin from NASCAR President Mike Helton.

It was a rare light moment these days about Victory Lane, which has become a focal point of controversy.

NASCAR has made PowerAde the official sponsor of Victory Lane and expects winning drivers to speed there for the post-race celebration, where an array of blue PowerAde bottles gets plunked on the roof of the winning car. It matters not that PowerAde is made by Coca-Cola, that several drivers have sponsorship deals with Pepsi, or that several tracks have Gatorade emblazoned all over Victory Lane.

Because Nextel Cup racing has become so competitive, wins are cherished as never before and drivers don't want to give up the emotion of the moment when they win.

"I think it needs to be celebrated," said Rusty Wallace. "You need to have your crew with you and your family with you and have a big time doing it instead of worrying about turning it into a commercial event."

That was echoed by Ricky Rudd, who has started 738 consecutive Cup races but hasn't won in two years.

"When you win a race, you want to be able to share it with your crew, share it with your fans," Rudd said. "The rest of it, the television and all that stuff, to

me it's always been a necessary evil of the business.

"Don't get me wrong, Victory Lane is a great place to be. But it gets to be so rehearsed that you almost need to let the drivers and teams go have their celebration. Let them have their 10 minutes, then go through the work process. Victory Lane is work."

Indeed. After winning at Watkins Glen on Sunday and despite a bad case of stomach cramps that nearly forced him out of his car during the race, Tony Stewart obliquely doled nearly 60 hats in Victory Lane.

"Now it's definitely a lot more scripted because there's a lot more commitments, for teams, for NASCAR and for the tracks," said Mike Arming, who handles public relations for Stewart. "It takes almost two hours. My hat bag is the size of a hockey (equipment) bag."

"The most unscribed fun happens when the driver crosses the finish line," Arming said. "The crew jumps up and down and celebrates, but it's almost like it ends when he gets to Victory Lane. The spontaneity of winning is kind of lost. It's still cool, but it's not this big party. It is what it is."

What it is is the chance for NASCAR to plug its official sponsors in front of a television audience that has increased substantially since stock car racing's governing body signed a television deal with NBC, Fox and TNT two years ago.

Although there is nothing in the rule book addressing what winning drivers are required to do, they are told to sit inside the car until the television cameras are live so viewers can see their reaction when they climb out.



Tony Stewart, holding the trophy for Sunday's Sirius at the Glen race, was the first NASCAR driver in three weeks to go to Victory Lane.

In August, exposure for those big PowerAde bottles has dropped significantly.

Jimmie Johnson, who counts Pepsi as a sponsor, circumvented an order from Helton not to touch the bottles by knocking them off with a sign after his win at Pocono Raceway and was fined \$10,000.

A week later, teammate Jeff Gordon, another Pepsi driver, won at Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the fourth time in 11 years and celebrated on the track's famed row of bricks. And Stewart was so ill that as soon as

he climbed out of his car he was immediately whisked to his trailer to recover and returned long after the telecast had signed off.

Neither Gordon nor Stewart was fined.

"The most important thing is for us to maintain the celebration," said Gordon, who has won four Cup championships.

"What happened (at Indianapolis) from my end of it certainly didn't have anything to do with sponsors. That's where I wanted to share that moment with my team, and NASCAR had no prob-



Jimmie Johnson, who counts Pepsi as a sponsor, won at Pocono Raceway on Aug. 1 and knocked down the PowerAde bottles atop his car in Victory Lane. He was fined \$10,000.

lem with that. They just wanted the car in Victory Lane."

Conflicts are inevitable. According to Joyce Lyles & Associates, a Michigan firm that calculates exposure value at sporting events for corporate entities, each year between 700 and 1,000 sponsors sign on with NASCAR. There aren't enough seconds in a day for all of them.

"There are going to be conflicting sponsors and you're going to have to make decisions as to where you're going to have the hand in a professional way and in a respectful manner," said Kyle Petty.

"It's the heat of the moment and at the height of emotion, and a lot of times that's not the best way to handle it."

"The problem is it's changed recently," Petty said. "Is the change a plus or a minus? Right now, you've got to give it a minus. You can't say it's a plus because it's caused controversy. Who would ever have thought in a sport that's growing the way this sport's growing we'd be arguing about bottles sitting on the roofs of cars in Victory Lane?"

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 23: GFS Marketplace 400, 2 a.m. Monday (dtd), SPT.

Last race: Plagued by an upset stomach, Tony Stewart fought through pain to win the Sirius at the Glen, NASCAR's road race at Watkins Glen International, for the second time in three years. Stewart led 46 of 90 laps on the 11-turn tarmac, going to the front for the final time by passing Casey Mears on lap 76.

The 2002 series champion earned his second win of the season and the 19th of his career.

Start time: Ryan Newman was able to stretch his final tank of gas 52 laps and easily beat Kevin Harvick, who made his last pit stop on lap 149, by 1.652 seconds — about 10 car-lengths.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Ryan Newman has taken 12th in the standings after two bad top-10 finishes in the last two races, but has four of his past 30 five races. Unlucky at Michigan, he has only three top-10 finishes in 21 cars to get back behind the start in the title hunt.

Jeremy Mayfield, who is 10th in the points, has had a multiyear streak of last week's finish in 21 cars to get back behind the start in the title hunt.

Jeff Burton will be missing his first start in Richmond after a crash at the Glen. He's 30th in the points, but has four of his past 30 five races. Unlucky at Michigan, he has only three top-10 finishes in 21 cars to get back behind the start in the title hunt.

Nestle Cup qualifying record
Dale Earnhardt Jr., 191.469 mph, 2000

Nestle Cup race record
Dale Jarrett, 173.997, June 13, 1999



BUSCH SERIES

This week: Cabela's 250 at Brooklyn, Mich. (joined in progress, tape-delayed, 8 a.m. Sunday, SPT)

Last race: Kyle Busch passed up a pit stop for tires, then held off Jimmy Spence in the final laps to win the Kroger Indianapolis Raceway Park race on Aug. 7, his fourth victory of the season.

Last year: Pit strategy and rain helped Kevin Harvick win. Tony Stewart, making his first Busch start since 1996, led 82 of the first 100 laps before surrendering the lead to Harvick after 250 laps.

Nestle race: Food City 250, Aug. 27, Bristol, Tenn.

INDY RACING

This week: Honda Indy 225 at Fountain City, Ind. (tape-delayed, 6:30 p.m. Monday, SPT)

Last race: Adrian Fernandez led 51 of 200 laps and beat pole-sitter Buddy Rice to the finish line by 0.061 seconds for his first IRL victory in the Belterra Casino Indy 200 at Kentucky Speedway. Fernandez moved to ninth in the points standings.

Last year: Scott Dixon led the final 64 laps and won under caution. Two cars spun out in the final 10 laps, producing two yellow flags.

Nestle race: Firestone Indy 225, Aug. 29, Nazareth, Pa.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

This week: O'Reilly 200 at Bristol, Tenn.

Tonp. (Tape-delayed, 9 a.m. Thursday, SPT)

Last race: Bobby Hamilton used a high pass to get around David Starr with eight laps remaining to win the Toyota Tundra 200 at Nashville Speedway. Hamilton, the series points leader, won his third Craftsman Truck Series race of the season by 0.95 seconds, about three truck-lengths, ahead of leader Kevin Harvick, wrecked on the last lap.

Last year: Hamilton won the 2003 race on the 75th lap and stayed in front until lap 160, when he was pulled in Turn 4.

Nestle race: Craftsman Truck Series 200, Aug. 29, Richmond, Va.

CHAMP CARS

Last race: Sebastian Bourdais recovered from a crash on the 62nd turn when Newman-Haas teammate Dale Jarrett wrecked his way through the field and won the Centrix Financial Grand Prix of the 100 laps at Kentucky Speedway for Bourdais, who widened his second-place lead over his competitors.

Nestle race: Aug. 29, Montreal

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Michael Schumacher became the first Formula One driver to win 12 times in a season by taking the Hungarian GP. Schumacher, who has sailed to win only once in the most popular open-wheel series, took the lead on the first turn and never relinquished it.

Nestle race: Belgian Grand Prix, Aug. 29, Spa-Francorchamps



Oakland Athletics' Erubiel Durazo (44) gets a high five from Mark McLemore after Durazo hit his third home run of the game against the Baltimore Orioles Wednesday. Durazo drove in all of Oakland's five runs.

Durazo's 3 homers give Oakland 16th

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — No matter what kind of pitch was thrown and regardless of who threw it, Erubiel Durazo sent the baseball deep into the night.

Slider, fastball, lefty, righty, it didn't matter. When Durazo hit it, the ball soared over the wall.

Durazo hit three homers and drove in all five of Oakland's runs, and Mark Mulder became the majors' first 16-game winner by pitching the Athletics to a 5-4 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday.

The A's trailed 4-0 before Durazo hit a pair of two-run homers off Sidney Ponson. But the slugger saved his best for last, connecting off B.J. Ryan (3-3) on a 3-2 fastball in the eighth to break the tie and put Mulder in position to win.

"I really can't say too much about the offense. There's just one guy's locker to go to," Oakland manager Ken Macha said. "Hitting the go-ahead off Ryan — who's been lights out against left-handers — in an 11-pitch at-bat. What an evening for him."

It was only the second home run by a left-handed batter against Ryan since 2002 and only the seventh hit that Ryan has allowed to a lefty this season.

"I know he is really tough, so I went out there and just tried to make contact," Durazo said. "I just feel real good at the plate and I'm seeing the ball real good."

Mulder (16-4) allowed four runs and six hits in eight innings, but gave up only one single in his final five innings.

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Andrew Jones hit a two-run homer off Trevor Hoffman in the ninth inning and the Atlanta Braves threw out the potential tying run at the plate for the final out Wednesday night, preserving a 6-5 come-from-behind win over the San Diego Padres.

Julio Franco led off the inning with a single and was replaced by pinch-runner Charles Thomas before Jones hit a 2-1 fastball over the center-field wall off Hoffman (2-3), who blew his fourth save in 35 chances.

But the Braves had to hold on in the bottom of the inning.

Mark Loretta drew a two-out walk from John Smoltz, and Rogers followed with a grounder down the first-base line that went into the right-field corner. J.D. Drew fielded the ball and relayed it to second baseman Marcus Giles, who threw home. Catcher Eddie Perez got the ball and tagged out Loretta, who tried to score all the way from first on the hit, which was ruled a double.

Chris Reitsma (5-3) pitched one inning for the win, and Smoltz picked up his 31st save in 33 chances.

Loretta and Brian Giles hit back-to-back home runs on consecutive pitches for San Diego, which tied it at 3 in the fifth.

Brian Giles continued his hot hitting in the series after coming off a road trip in which he was 3-for-30. Giles, who was 3-for-3 with two walks, extended his streak of reaching base safely to 11 consecutive plate appearances. In the three-game series, Giles was 8-for-10 with two doubles,

NL Roundup

one triple, two home runs, four RBIs, three runs scored and four walks.

Astros 9, Phillies 8: Carlos Beltrán's two-run double in the eighth inning helped Houston beat host Philadelphia after Roger Clemens joined Andy Pettitte on the Astros' injured list.

Clemens was due to day after straining his right calf running to first base on his two-run single. The six-time AL Cy Young Award winner gave up four runs in three innings.

Before the game, the Astros learned Pettitte will have season-ending elbow surgery next week.

Expos 6, Giants 2, 1st game; Giants 14, Expos 4, 2nd game: Barry Bonds homered for the third time in two days to help lead his team over Montreal for a doubleheader split in San Francisco.

Bonds connected for a solo shot off Francisco Beltrán for his 34th homer and No. 692 of his career.

The 40-year-old slugger left after two to rest and Dustan Mohr replaced him in left field. Mohr later hit a two-run homer estimated at 451 feet.

Cubs 7, Brewers 5, 11 innings: Corey Patterson hit a two-run homer in the 11th to lead the Cubs.

Patterson's 16th home run of the season came with two outs off Travis Lee (0-1), who was making his first major league appearance after the hot Brewers.

Kent Mercker (3-0) threw

two-thirds of an inning for the victory and Lee T. Evans pitched the 11th for his 18th save.

Reds 5, Cardinals 4: Rookie Josh Hancock won for the first time as a starter and Sean Casey drove in three runs, helping visiting Cincinnati avoid a three-game sweep.

Scott Rolen homered and Albert Pujols doubled twice for St. Louis. The Cardinals rallied for two runs in the ninth inning, but Pujols grounded out with runners on first and second to end it.

The loss was only the third in 14 games for the NL Central leaders, and it also ended their seven-game home winning streak.

Diamondbacks 6, Pirates 3: Shea Hillenbrand's three-run homer capped a five-run fifth inning.

Casey Fossum (3-12) pitched seven solid innings at home to end a six-game losing skid and win for the first time since July 1.

Marlins 6, Dodgers 4: Pinch-hitter Lenny Harris delivered a three-run double off Eric Gagne with two outs in the ninth inning, rallying Florida past host Los Angeles.

It was Gagne's 100th game, dating to Aug. 26, 2002. The 2003 NL Cy Young Award winner entered with a 4-2 lead in the ninth, but couldn't hold it.

Covered hit an RBI single off Gagne (4-2), who later walked pinch-hitter Paul Lo Duca, his former batterymate, to lead the bases. Harris, who holds the major league record with 190 career pinch-hits, followed with a liner into right-center to give Florida a 6-4 lead.

Blalock lifts Rangers past Indians

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Hank Blalock had no time to stick around and talk about his big game.

Blalock homered twice, Kenny Rogers earned his 15th win and the Texas Rangers extended their winning streak to six games with a 5-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Wednesday night.

Just a few minutes after the final out, Blalock jumped in his car and headed for the hospital to be with his wife, Misty, who was in labor awaiting the birth of their first child.

"I'm very appreciative that he hung around because he was a big part of this game and a big part of the club," Rogers said.

"That puts things in perspective. That's beyond the call of duty because baseball is a distant second to what he's got going on right now."

Blalock went 3-for-4 with a solo homer in the fourth and a two-run shot in the sixth, breaking out of a 10-for-64 slide spanning his previous 19 games. He had gone 28 games without a homer since July 19.

After the game, Blalock took a

quick shower and finished dressing on the way to his car. He didn't want to miss his child's birth, but he also wanted to play in an important game.

"Before the game he was talking about it. He was kind of numb," teammate Michael Young said. "I was surprised he was even here. But he had a great game. He was pretty quiet in the dugout. He had other things to worry about."

It was also a big night for Rogers, who moved within two wins of matching his career high. He went 17-7 for Texas in 1995.

Rogers (15-5) allowed two runs and eight hits in six effective innings. The left-hander struck out three and didn't issue a walk.

Red Sox 6, Blue Jays 4: Tim Lincecum (9-9) pitched eight strong innings to beat Miguel Batista (9-9), and the host Red Sox moved a season-high 15 games over .500 by completing a three-game sweep. Toronto dropped a season-high 23 games under .500 by losing for the 13th time in 15 games.

Angels 6, Devil Rays 4: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Bartolo Colon (12-9) came within one out of a complete game as he ended his seventh win in eight starts.

Vladimir Guerrero homered and drove in two runs.

White Sox 9, Tigers 2: At Chicago, Aaron Rowand homered twice — including his first career grand slam — and Jose Contreras (11-5) won his third straight decision for the White Sox.

Chicago manager Ozzie Guillen was back at the ballpark after missing a night in the hospital because of a kidney stone. He skipped Wednesday night's game to complete a two-game suspension.

Royals 3, Mariners 2: John Buck hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth for the host Royals. Seattle star Ichiro Suzuki, who leads the majors with a .366 batting average, left the game with a mild concussion in the third after he was hit in the head by a pitch from rookie starter Justin Seider.

Ryan Franklin (3-12) retired 15 straight during one stretch but lost his seventh straight decision.

Twins 7, Yankees 2: The last time the faced the Yankees, Johan Santana and Minnesota were knocked out of the American League playoffs.

This time, Santana knocked down Derek Jeter and silenced New York's powerful lineup. The left-hander took a shutout at home into the ninth inning and won his fifth straight start, spoiling Mike Mussina's return from the disabled list.

Ibis Tek GSM Cell Phone Jammer Model 735TC Vehicle System



Designed specifically with the intent to prevent the operation of cellular telephones from being used as remote detonators for explosive devices. Since GSM does not use paired offset transmit and receive channels the standard voice frequency jammers are less than 60 percent efficient in preventing a signal from getting through. This unit uses a different waveform to sweep both up and down in frequency in a single cycle and the waveform is repeated several thousand times a second. Additionally the white noise is used to modulate the output waveform with an additional pseudorandom tone that changes frequency 16 times a second and is also swept through the entire bandwidth at several thousand times per second to give the Buzzsaw modulation that is used in high end military jamming systems.

Features: Disrupts all GSM cellular frequencies 900-960 MHz and 1800-2100 MHz. Mounts on back of rear passenger or drivers seat. 100 Meter operational range and connects directly to IBDWV's batteries under seat or in 12V vehicle adapter in other vehicles. Windshield suction mount operates for non-metallic vehicles and magnetic mount antenna for metallic vehicles and SUV's. Operates continuously when connected to vehicle battery power and will not disrupt operation of medical radios and communication devices. Internal Power systems are all switching supplies with near 90% efficiency to insure a constant power output as the battery voltage varies. RF output does not vary with battery discharge.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Finishing with a flourish,
U.S. tops Australia 89-79

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — LeBron James eyed Shawn Marion's pass coming toward him and made a split-second decision to redirect the ball. One fifty touch pass later, Dwyane Wade converted it into a layup.

The basket broke the last tie and began a game-changing 10-point run at the start of the fourth quarter, leading the United States to a 89-79 victory over Australia on Thursday.

The win might have been a big step toward reversing the fortunes of a U.S. team that struggled to beat Greece and was embarrassed by Puerto Rico in a 19-point loss.

"Everything's not clicking yet, but we're heading that way," Tim Duncan said. "It was a great learning experience today being able to fight back and staying with each other."

After a defensively inert first half and a so-so third quarter, the Americans increased their defensive intensity, moved the ball with aplomb and put together a few late, short-range moments for Olympic predecessors took their glory.

On Day 6 of the Games, perhaps the most dramatic comeback in the history of the Olympics. "This young kid (James) and Dwyane Wade started throwing the ball inside, and all of the sudden everybody on our team got

better," coach Larry Brown said. "Hopefully we've got to remember that. But we're not dealing with Michael Jordans and Larry Birds and Magic Johnsons that have done that from the beginning, and it's going to take time for some of these young people."

Duncan scored 18 points, Allen Iverson and Marion each added 16 and Wade scored 12 for the U.S. team, which shot 57 percent from the field — 71 percent from two-point range but only 3-for-17 on threes.

The Americans kept their turnovers down, found better shots than in their first two games and realized that the only way to fuel their offense is through defense.

The United States forced four misses and a turnover on Australia's first five possessions of the fourth quarter, and the ball movement was fluid and flashy during the 10-0 run that put the Americans ahead 75-67.

Australia, led by Shane Heal's 17 points, never threatened again.

"That's all our team is about," James said. "If we stop people, we're the most athletic team in this whole tournament and we can get out and get easy buckets."

From the start, the Americans looked to run their offense through Duncan in the low post. But their defensive rotations were slow and they repeatedly left players open at the three-point line.

Brown could only shake his

head as Glen Saville sank the Aussies' fifth three-pointer of the first quarter for a 24-18 lead, and the United States was down by 12 before the period was over.

The Americans' reluctance to attempt a three-pointer was clear late in the second quarter when James hesitated so much before releasing the shot that the ball never even made it to the rim.

"I think they continue to [improve], but they'd better make jump shots to win the gold in this tournament," Heal said.

Wade and Iverson drove coast to coast for layups late in the half to help the Americans pull within 51-47 at the break, and Brown went with Marion instead of Richard Jefferson to start a second half that began with Duncan's third foul.

Duncan remained on the court and played foul-free for the rest of the quarter, and the Americans took their first lead since the early going on an alley-oop dunk by Marion off a pass from Iverson that made it 61-60 with 4:38 left.

A late three-pointer by Brett Maher gave Australia a 67-65 lead entering the fourth quarter.

"We're trying to get better, and we're not where we want to be — but we've progressed," Iverson said. "If we stay consistent on defense, we'll be fine. We'll get the easy baskets and then won't have rely on jumpers."

Switching from Jefferson to Marion at the start of the second



Australia's Jason Smith guards Allen Iverson of the U.S. during a preliminary-round game Thursday in Athens. The U.S. won 89-79.

half wasn't the only change Brown made. He also kept Carmelo Anthony on the bench for all but 2 minutes.

"I don't need a guy who doesn't want to buy in," Brown said. "How you play, how you practice and how you act determines how much you play."

James seems to have received that message, accepting his role off the bench and trying to provide the energy that the U.S. team has been missing.

"We don't have them all, but their starting to care about each other and understand the importance of representing our country the right way," Brown said. "The biggest challenge coaches have today on all levels is for guys to think of coaching as coaching and not criticism."

"He has a hard time looking at me sometimes because of how he might be perceived by certain people, but he listens to everything I say."

Hamm becomes first American man to win all-around gold

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Paul Hamm couldn't stand the view — lying flat on his back, staring at the lights in the ceiling. Then he caught sight of something even uglier: the scoreboard.

With one sickening stumble on a vault he had never botched before, Hamm dropped from first place to 12th with two events left in Wednesday night's Olympic all-around.

"I was very upset and depressed," he said. "I felt I let myself down."

Champions rarely give up, and Hamm didn't. He strung together the two best routines of his life and, when he looked at the scoreboard at the end of the night, he had a much different view.

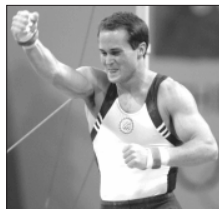
His name was on top. Gold medalist. Olympic champion.

It was, almost everybody in the gym agreed, the most dramatic comeback in the 108-year history of Olympic gymnastics.

"Totally unbelievable," USA Gymnastics president Bob Colaninno said. "I've never seen anything like it," coach Miles Avery continued.

"The greatest I've ever seen," said Peter Vidmar, who won silver in 1984 and is now one of two American men to win a medal in the all-around.

Hamm added this gold to the one he won in world championships last year, along with the Olympic silver he and his team-



American Paul Hamm reacts after sticking his landing on the high bar and winning the gold medal during the men's gymnastics individual all-around final on Wednesday.

mates took Monday night. He joined Mary Lou Retton as just the second American to win gold in an Olympic all-around.

He won with any game comeback, Hamm needed some help, and got it.

He followed the vault debacle, where he scored a 9.137, on the parallel bars. And after his straight-line routine there netted a 9.837, no fewer than a half-dozen of the gymnasts between him and first place faltered.

"You look around and watch what's hap-

pening on the floor, and you start to think about what could happen," Colaninno said.

When Hamm got ready to close the meet on the high bar — his signature event — indeed anything seemed possible.

He went through the routine without a flaw, flying up and backward across the bar and grabbing it three straight times with ease. He needed a 9.825 to tie the Kim Dae-eun of South Korea for the gold, but he didn't know that.

His score, another 9.837, flashed on the board. He hugged Avery, thinking he had secured the bronze, which was all he was hoping for after the tumble a half-hour earlier.

"He looked at me and said 'You're an Olympic champion,'" Hamm said. "I said 'Oh.' It was the best performance of my life."

He defeated Kim by 0.012 points, the slimmest margin in the history of the men's all-around. The previous closest was 0.017 by Leon Stukely of Yugoslavia over Robert Prizak of Czechoslovakia in the 1924 Games.

Another South Korean, Yang Tae-young, took the bronze.

Kim and Yang looked stunned sitting at the medalists' news conference. Maybe it was because, as they admitted, they didn't really think they would be on the medal stand at all on this night.

Or maybe it was because, once they knew they would be there, Hamm came back and practically ripped the gold off their necks.

"I thought maybe I could get first," Kim said. "I'm rather disappointed and angry in a way."

Those were the first two medals for South Korea in the men's all-around, but outside their own country, they'll be the answer to a trivia question, at best. Hamm's comeback was that special.

Another American, Brett McClure, also had a special evening. He was in third after five rotations. But he finished on rings, which is his weakest event, and wound up ninth.

"I took a picture of the scoreboard after five events, because I knew I was going to drop," he said.

That scoreboard kept looking better and better for Hamm, who learned what it was like to win on a big stage last year in world.

At that meet, he needed a 9.712 on the high bar to defeat Yang Wei of China. Hamm came through under pressure that time, hitting the release moves on that same routine to get the score and win the gold.

"It has been a dream of mine," he said after that one. "World champion is as high as you can get, except for maybe Olympic champion."

On the medal stand, he listened to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Usually stoic, tears welled up in his eyes. His twin brother, Morgan, looked on from the stands.

"I'm happy right now," Paul Hamm said. "Shocked, actually."

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Germany has team gold for now

BY MARGARET FREEMAN
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The horses were grading the grain and team officials their teeth at the Olympic equestrian venue Thursday.

Riders and trainers waited for the next step in a rare drama for the polite sport after Germany's riders won the gold medal Wednesday in the three-day team event — but not before losing it, and then winning it back, in a bizarre flurry of judging decisions and reversals.

France, Britain and the United States — the three teams caught in the middle of the judges' indecision — said they would appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport here to reverse the turnaround but briefly gave the U.S. team the bronze in the equestrian equivalent of the decathlon.

Equestrian

"All three teams have informed the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) of their decision to proceed," the committees said in a joint statement, adding that lawyers would file the appeal in a few days.

Initially, the judges gave Germany the gold and France the silver, while Britain took bronze.

But the same officials, concerned that Germany's Bettina Hoy might have crossed the start line twice on the show jumping course, then docked Germany 14 points, dropping it from first place to fourth with 147.8 points in a decision that lifted the United States to third and the bronze.

Germany then lodged a protest, an equestrian appeals committee reversed the judges' decision — and the Germans reclaimed their gold. Once again, France was awarded the silver and Britain the bronze. The United States was left empty-handed.

"I want to know why at one moment we were given the gold medal and then they gave us silver," French Olympic Committee President Henri Serandour said.

He went on to win the individual three-day gold Wednesday night. Leslie Law of Britain won the silver aboard Shear L'Eau, and America's Kim Severson on Winsome Adante took the bronze. Meanwhile, the grand prix dressage riders and show jumpers — specialists separate from the three-day team event — prepared for their own events. Dressage begins Friday.



Greece's Stacey Farnworth catches the ball as she prepares to tag United States' Jessica Mendoza (2). The U.S. still won 7-0.

Moya among victims; U.S. softball coasts

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The upsets just keep on coming in men's tennis at the Olympics, with No. 3 Carlos Moya joining Roger Federer and Andy Roddick on the sideline Thursday after a 6-2, 7-5 quarterfinal loss to Nicolas Pietrangeli of Chile.

Chile is guaranteed to win a tennis medal for the first time before Massu's teammate, No. 16 Fernando Gonzalez, followed up his surprise victory over Roddick by beating No. 8 Sebastian Grosjean of France 6-2, 6-4, 6-4. No. 10 Massu is the highest-seeded player left.

He'll face Taylor Dent of the United States in the semifinals. Dent defeated Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-3. Gonzalez meets Marly Fish of the United States or Mikhail Youzhny of Russia.

It's Massu's best showing at a big tournament. He's never been past the third round at a Grand Slam, and he lost in the second round at the 2000 Sydney Games after carrying Chile's flag in the opening ceremony.

Moya, in contrast, was the 1998 French Open champion and the 1997 Australian Open runner-up. The Spaniard also was briefly ranked No. 1 in 1999.

On Thursday, French Open champion Anastasia Myskina was the first woman to reach the semifinals. The third-seeded Russian was never in trouble against No. 11 Francesca Schiavone of Italy, winning the first five games en route to a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

U.S. shows no mercy in softball, wins with another shutout

ATHENS, Greece — Lisa Fernandez pitched a one-hitter Thursday as the two-time defending gold medalist United States won its sixth straight shutout in softball, a shortened 7-0 victory over Greece.

Greece (2-4) did all it could. The United States (6-0) simply wore down the Greeks — represented by several Americans of Greek ancestry — and put an opponent away after five innings for the fourth time under the so-called mercy rule.

Olympic roundup

Fernandez hit an RBI single in the third inning for the only run she would need. Leah O'Brien-Amico and Jessica Mendoza added two RBIs apiece.

China (3-3) beat Taiwan 1-0, scoring the only run on a fifth-inning fielding error by first baseman Chang Li Chiu. Taiwan (2-4) missed a chance to tie it when Chen Miao Yi was tagged at home by Chinese catcher Guo Jia to end the fourth.

Ward advances, but Martirosyan loses to Cuban in boxing

U.S. medal prospect Andre Ward beat Italy's Clemente Russo 7-9 to advance to the quarterfinals as the Americans finished 6-1 in run through the preliminaries. The Americans sent eight fighters into the second round, with two advancing on byes.

But in their first match Thursday, welterweight Vanes Martirosyan lost 20-11 to Lorenzo Aragon. Cuba's two-time world champion.

Americans advance in canoe-kayak

ATHENS, Greece — Former Olympic champion canoe racer Joe Jacobi and partner Matt Taylor were easily clinched a semifinal berth in the whitewater slalom event. Single American kayakers Brett Heyl and Scott Parsons also advanced to Friday's semifinals and finals.

Hungary knocks off U.S. in water polo

ATHENS, Greece — Defending Olympic champion Hungary handed the United States its first loss in water polo preliminaries, beating the Americans 7-5. Tamas Varga scored his second goal on extra-play to seal the match with 1:27 remaining. The Hungarians then blocked shots by Layne Beaubien and Wigo to thwart a furious American comeback attempt in the last minute.

U.S. draws blood but can't medal

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — A rally by Keith Smart fell short in the U.S. saber fencing team's loss to France on Thursday, a semifinal match that came down to a final point and left his opponent bleeding from his hand.

And then the Americans were left without a medal, losing the gold to Russia in the final.

In the disputed semifinal, Smart stood in the middle of the strip, his helmet off and mouth agape, after the referee awarded the final point to France's Damien Touya, who had bloodstains on the leg of his white suit.

The Americans trailed 40-38 entering the final rotation of the bout in which 45 touches wins, but Smart rallied against Touya, tying the bout at 44 and setting up the deciding point.

Smart and Touya charged each other and recorded touches, but the referee did not award a point. On the play, Smart's saber went through Touya's glove, piercing his hand at the webbing of his fingers, and exiting through his palm. His trainers bandaged his hand while his replacement, Boris Sanson, warmed up.

Smart, meanwhile, took a seat on a chair on the edge of the strip, getting advice from his coach, Yury Gelman. With a 10-minute timeout set to end, Touya chose to return to the match with his injured and bandaged hand instead of being replaced.

The two fencers attacked two more times but no points were awarded. On each play, referee Jose Luis Alvarez determined that the fencers attacked simultaneously.

On the fourth attempt at a deciding point, Smart and Touya both recorded touches, but Alvarez ruled that Touya caught Smart while preparing to attack,

giving the Frenchman the victory.

Gelman ran onto the strip to argue with the referee, but to no avail. "We made a deal today that we weren't going to blame the referee," U.S. team captain Jeff Buktant said. "But it seemed that in two matches today, every time Keith made an attack and the guy counterattacked, they called it a double ... a simultaneous action. ... Every time it looked like a simultaneous, he called it against Keith."

Alvarez was also the referee in the quarterfinals when the American upset Hungary. In the bout, Smart entered the final rotation trailing 40-38, but outscored Domonkos Ferencsik 3-7 to give the U.S. team a 45-43 win.

Shooting

Women's skeet: Diana Igaly of Hungary made all 25 of her shots in the final round to win the gold medal on Thursday. Igaly finished with a total score of 97, one off the Olympic record set by Zemfira Metfakhedina of Azerbaijan in Khujandi in 2000. Metfakhedina won the bronze this year, finishing with 93 and losing a shoot-off to Wei Ning of China.

Men's 10-meter running target: Manfred Kurzer of Germany won the gold medal after setting a world record in qualifying for the running target event, possibly the last time it will be held in the Olympics.

Kurzer scored 500 points of a possible 600, beating the record of 588 set by Yang Ling of China in 2002. In the finals he faltered a bit, but held off silver medalist Alexander Blinov and bronze winner Dmitri Lydin, both of Russia.

Badminton

Women's singles: China displayed its dominance in the sport when world champion Zhang Ning won the women's singles final and Zhou Mi beat fellow Chi-

nese Gong Ruina 11-2, 8-11, 11-6 for bronze.

Zhang beat Indonesian-born Dutchwoman Mia Audina 8-11, 11-6, 11-7.

Mixed doubles: Zhang Jun and Gao Ling edged the British pair of Nathan Robertson and Gail Emms 15-1, 12-15, 15-12.

The bronze medal in the mixed doubles went to Denmark's Jens Eriksen and Mette Schjoldager, who beat compatriots Jans Rasmussen and Rikke Olsen 15-5, 15-5.

Weightlifting

Women's 69 kg: Liu Chunhong of China broke three of her own world records Thursday in winning the gold medal. Chunhong, the defending world champion, set records in the snatch of 270 pounds (122.5kg), the clean and jerk of 337 pounds (153kg) and total lift of 606 pounds (275kg). The total lift equals a weightlifter's best combined lifts in the snatch and clean and jerk.

The 19-year-old Chunhong broke the records she set in last year's world championships of 264½ pounds (120kg) in the snatch, 336 pounds (152.5kg) in the clean and jerk and total lift of 595 pounds (270kg).

Judo

Men's 100 kg: Jiri Makarau of Belarus beat Jang Sun-ho of South Korea to win the gold medal. Michael Jurack of Germany and Ariel Zeevi of Israel shared the bronze.

Women's 78 kg: Noriko Ando of Japan beat Liu Xia of China on Thursday to win the gold medal. Lucia Morico of Italy and Yuriel Laborde of Cuba shared the bronze.

Archery

Men's individual: Marco Galiazzi of Italy won the gold medal, beating Hiroshi Yamamoto of Japan 111-109.

Tim Cuddihy of Australia won the bronze.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Olympic scoreboard

Thursday's scores

BASKETBALL

New Zealand 90, Serbia-Montenegro 87
Spain 71, Italy 63
United States 69, Australia 79
Puerto Rico 83, Angola 80

FIELD HOCKEY

Netherlands 1, South Africa 2
Pakistan 3, South Korea 0
Germany 6, Egypt 1
Spain 5, Britain 1

SOFTBALL

New Zealand 3, Argentina 1
United States 7, Greece 0, 5 innings
Japan 1, Italy 0

TEAM HANDBALL

South Korea 40, Angola 30
China 33, Greece 13
Ukraine 21, Brazil 19

VOLLEYBALL

Brazil 3, Australia 0 (25-18, 25-18, 25-21)
Italy 3, Netherlands 1 (25-22, 24-26, 25-21, 25-19)
France 3, Poland 0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-17)

Serbia-Montenegro 3, Tunisia 0 (25-16, 25-22, 25-21)
Argentina 3, Greece 1 (16-25, 25-21, 25-22, 25-19)

WATER POLO

Serbia-Montenegro 9, Kazakhstan 5
Hungary 7, United States 5
Spain 8, Australia 4
Italy 10, Germany 5

Swimming

Men

200 Backstroke
1. Aaron Peirsol, Irvine, Calif., 1:54.95.
2. Markus Rogan, Austria, 1:57.26.
3. Ivan Ljubic, Serbia, 1:57.56.
4. James Goldsack, Britain, 1:57.76.

5. Tomomi Morita, Japan, 1:58.48.
6. Simon Oudhof, France, 1:58.49.
7. Gregor Tait, Britain, 1:58.49.
8. Blaz Medvedec, Slovenia, 2:00.06.

200 Individual Medley
1. Michael Phelps, Towson, Md., 1:57.14.
2. Ryan Lochte, Daytona Beach, Fla., 1:58.71.
3. George Bono, Trinidad and Tobago, 1:58.89.

4. László Cseh, Hungary, 1:58.84.
5. Thiago Pereira, Brazil, 2:00.11.
6. Takahiro Mori, Japan, 2:00.60.
7. Vyacheslav Janjigashvili, Lithuania, 2:01.28.

8. Jiro Maki, Japan, 2:02.16.
200 Freestyle
1. Jodie Henry, Australia, 53.84.
2. Inge de Bruijn, Netherlands, 54.16.
3. Natalie Coughlin, Concord, Calif., 54.40.

4. Maria Metella, France, 54.50.
5. Kara Lynn Joyce, Ann Arbor, Mich., 54.54.
6. Nery Mantel Ntongokoua, Greece, 54.81.
7. Martina Moravcova, Slovakia, 55.12.

8. Alena Popchanka, Belarus, 55.24.
200 Breaststroke
1. Amanda Beard, Irvine, Calif., 2:23.37.
2. Lisel Jones, Australia, 2:23.68.
3. Anne Poleska, Germany, 2:25.82.

4. Missami Tanaka, Japan, 2:25.87.
5. Agnes Kovacs, Hungary, 2:26.12.
6. Qi Hai, China, 2:26.38.
7. Mirna Jukic, Austria, 2:26.38.
8. Brooke Hanson, Australia, 2:26.39.

Fencing

Men's Team Sabre

Bronze Medal

Russia (Aleksy Yatsenko) 1-1; Stanislav

Pozdnyakov 2-0; Sergei Chavokov 3-0; def.

United States (Jason Rouse) 1-0; Los Angeles

2-1; Ivan Loe, Brooklyn, N.Y. 3-1; Keeth

Smart, Brighton, U.K. 3-1; 4-5, 3-4, 3-4.

Gold Medal

France (Gael Touya 3-0; Damien Touya 1-2;

Julien Pillet 1-2), def. Italy (Gianpiero Spar-

toro 1-2; Aldo Montano 2-1; Luigi Tarantini

1-2); 4-5, 4-2, 3-40.

Badminton

Men

Singles

Gold Medal

Zhang Ning, China, def. Mia Audina

Tijptjens, Netherlands, 1-0, 11-4, 11-7.

Bronze Medal

Zhou Mi, China, def. Gong Ruina, China,

11-2, 8-11, 11-4.

Mixed Doubles

Bronze Medal

Jens Erikson and Mette Schjoldager, Den-

mark, def. Jonas Rasmussen and Rikke

Olsen, Denmark, 1-0, 15-5.

Gold Medal

Zhang Jun and Gao Ling, China, def. Nathan

Robertson and Gail Emms, Britain, 1-0,

12-15, 15-12.

Archery

Men

Individual 70m

Bronze Medal

Amend Thoresen, Norway, def. Laurence

Goudy, Britain, 113-112.

Gold Medal

Marco Galizzio, Italy, def. Hiroshi Yama-

moto, Japan, 111-107.

Shooting

Men

10m Running Target

1. Manfred Rummel, Germany, 590, 92-40,

682-4.

2. Alexander Blinov, Russia, 578, 100-0,

678-0.

3. Dmitri Lykin, Russia, 584, 93-1, 677-1.

4. Eric Andersson, Sweden, 578, 98-8,

678-8.

5. Michael Jakobs, Germany, 578, 98-7,

678-7.

6. Li Jie, China, 579, 96-8, 675-8.

7. Adam Scahill, Hereford, Ariz., 575,

575-0.

Women

Singles

Gold Medal

1. Diana Igaly, Hungary, 72, 25, 97.

2. Wei Ning, China, 70, 23, 93.

3. Zhenya Metkalendzlova, Azerbaijan,

(71, 22, 93).

4. Laryn Mark, Australia, 69, 23, 92.

5. Kimberly Rhode, El Monte, Calif., 68, 23,

91.

6. Connie Smotek, Bryan, Texas, 68, 22, 90.

Judo

Men 100kg

Gold Medal

Ihar Makarau, Belarus, def. Jang Sung Ho,

South Korea, Waza-ari.

Women's 78kg

Gold Medal

Noriko Anno, Japan, def. Liu Xia, China,

Ippon, Sode-tsurikomi-goshi, 4:38.

Pool: Beard holds on for gold

POOL, FROM BACK PAGE

Russian gymnast Aleksandr Dityatin is the only person to win eight medals in an Olympics, earned nine gold, four silver and one bronze in the boycotted 1980 Moscow Games. Eight athletes have won seven, including Spitz and U.S. swimmer Matt Biondi in 1988.

Women's 200 breaststroke

Beard won in an Olympic-record time of 2 minutes, 23.37 seconds — 0.23 seconds better than Jones, who was under world-record pace for the first 150 meters.

Jones took silver in 2:23.60. Anne Poleska of Germany earned bronze in 2:25.82.

Beard and Jones are the two fastest female breaststrokers in history. Jones owned the world record for two days in July before Beard broke it in the U.S. trials with a time of 2:22.44. The American also is the reigning world champion.

Beard, of Irvine, Calif., earned her third career Olympic medal.

Men's 200 backstroke

After Peirso's initial disqualification, the United States filed a protest and the ruling was overturned by FINA, the sport's governing body, about 30 minutes after the race — just before the medal ceremony was held.

"I knew I didn't do anything wrong," Peirso said.

FINA officials said the reversal was made because the judge in Peirso's lane provided inadequate details about the alleged violation that were "not in the working language of FINA." No other details were immediately available.

"It was a rollercoaster," Peirso said. "I am sad for those who thought they were on the podium and then were thrown out of it after my race was made valid."

Peirso, the world record-holder and current world champion, beat most of the race and easily beat the field, touching first in 1 minute, 54.95 seconds. He was more than two seconds ahead of the next swimmer, Austria's Marcus Rogan, a close finish.

Peirso clutched a lane rope and held up his right index finger, thinking he had become the fifth man to sweep both backstroke events in the Olympics, after already winning gold in the 100.

But there was a delay in putting up the official results. After several minutes, the scoreboard flashed "DSQ" beside Peirso's name — a disqualification. The crowd gasped and then began to boo.

Still standing on deck, the 21-year-old from Irvine, Calif., shrugged his shoulders in disbelief.

"It sounds pretty bogus to me," he said. "I think it's ridiculous for crossing the lane line before people had finished, but I'm not sure."

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SPORTS



Racing Stripes:
In eyes of NASCAR, Victory Lane is a one-way street, Page 29



Amanda Beard gives the thumbs up after winning the gold medal in the women's 200-meter breaststroke at the Olympic Aquatic Centre on Thursday. Beard won in an Olympic-record time of 2 minutes, 23.37 seconds to capture her first individual Olympic gold medal.

U.S. throws pool party

Phelps gets 4th gold of Games; Beard wins 200 breaststroke

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — American swimmers made another big splash in the Olympic pool on Thursday night.

■ Michael Phelps won his fourth gold medal of the Games in the 200-meter individual medley, leading the entire race.

■ Amanda Beard won her first individual Olympic gold medal, holding off Australian Leisel Jones in the 200-meter breaststroke.

■ Aaron Peirsol, after initially being disqualified for an alleged illegal turn, reclaimed the gold medal in the 200-meter backstroke Thursday night.

All three won in Olympic-record times.

Men's 200 individual medley

Phelps finished in an Olympic-record time of 1 minute, 57.14 seconds, lowering his own mark of 1:58.52 set in the semifinals one night earlier.

Ryan Lochte of Daytona Beach, Fla., earned silver in 1:58.78.

George Bovell of Trinidad took bronze in 1:58.80.

Phelps, the world record-holder and current world champion,

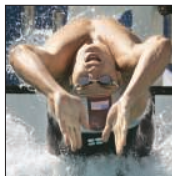


U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps won the gold medal in the 200-meter individual medley Thursday, giving him four gold medals and six medals overall in the Athens Games. Phelps has a chance to become only the second athlete to win eight medals in an Olympics.

earned his third individual gold medal in Athens. Mark Spitz is the only other swimmer to win more than two in an Olympics. Spitz won four — and Phelps still has one individual event remain-

ing, the 100-meter butterfly on Friday.

The 19-year-old from Baltimore was unsuccessful in his bid to break Spitz's record of seven golds in the 1972 Munich Games,



Aaron Peirsol of the U.S. swims in a 200-meter backstroke qualifying heat Thursday. Peirsol was disqualified in the final for what an official called an illegal turn but was awarded the gold medal after the U.S. filed a protest.

but still could end up with eight medals.

He also has two bronze medals, giving him the largest personal haul so far of any athlete in Athens. His other golds were in the 200 butterfly, 400 individual medley and 800 freestyle relay.

SEE POOL ON PAGE 35



U.S. men try more team-oriented basketball, pull away from Australia in fourth

Page 32



Hamm recovers from early tumble, wins all-around in men's gymnastics

Page 32

Medal count

Leaders after 82 medal events in the 28th Olympics on Thursday, Aug. 19.

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	13	11	9	33
China	14	9	5	28
Australia	6	5	7	18
Russia	3	7	8	18
Japan	9	4	2	15
Germany	4	2	6	12
Italy	4	4	3	11
South Korea	2	6	3	11
France	3	3	4	10
Netherlands	2	4	4	10

Smart stages bloody good rally but team falls short vs. France

Page 33

A's Mulder first 16-game winner this season Page 31

